MOTORING / B2-1

How much will owning a budget car really cost?

BUSINESS / B1

Meralco disputes P7-B Transco claim

ACROSS / A14

Chavit kin OKd Poro port deal, says lawyer

METRO / A17

Actor Ramon Christopher charged with reckless imprudence for hitting car

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Wednesday, August 23, 2006 ★★ 5 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 256 P18 website: www.inq7.net

COA releases LGUs' financial reports

TO PROMOTE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY, the Commission on Audit is releasing starting today the financial reports of local government units nationwide. The reports on Pages B8 and B9 are partial releases on 79 provinces, 117 cities and 285 municipalities of the NCR, CAR, and Regions 1 and 2. The reports were generated using the New Government Accounting System (NGAS) which COA developed to ensure timely and accurate reports.

Terror drive nets big haul of branded perfumes

By Luige A. del Puerto and Nikko Dizon

NEXT TIME YOU VISIT A charity or an orphanage, don't be surprised if you find the residents using branded hand lotions, expensive hair gels or

TERROR/ A6

TESTING THE WATERS. Fishermen and Greenpeace members try out oil booms which they hope will protect the beaches of Guimaras from the spreading oil spill.

REUTERS

Oil still oozing out of sunken tanker

By Carla P. Gomez and Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas
and Leila B. Salaverria *in Manila*

DISPUTING THE CLAIM OF PETRON Corp. that the leak from the sunken MT Solar I had stopped, a Philippine Coast Guard official said between 200 and 250 liters of the oil continued to ooze out of the vessel every hour.

Cmdr. Harold Jarder, PCG Iloilo station chief, said the estimate was based on actual observations of the PCG and a Japanese expert, who is helping the Philippines contain the massive spill that has wreaked havoc on fishing communities and a sprawling marine reserve off Guimaras Island.

Virginia Ruivivar, spokesperson of Petron, which had hired the tanker, insisted yesterday that based on aerial surveys and findings of the National Mapping Resources Information Authority, there were no new leaks from the tanker.

If the tanker is not removed and the oil leaks at its current rate, the fuel will seep into the sea for more than a year, PCG spokesperson Lt. Commander Joseph Coyme said.

"With the discovery of the leak, we really need to expedite the recovery of the tanker. We can't afford more oil to spill and further damage the environment," Coyme said.

The oil slick has so far affected Sibunag, San Lorenzo and Nueva Valencia towns in Guimaras Island, and Ajuy and Concepcion towns in Iloilo.

OIL/ A8

ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

GREENPEACE International has donated disposable gloves and rubber boots for the cleanup, which residents of Nueva Valencia have put to good use.

Another killing, 8 arrests

Bishop says no; still no word from Justice Melo

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—BISHOP CAMILO GREgorio yesterday declined to join the commission formed by President Macapagal-Arroyo to look into alleged extrajudicial executions of leftist activists, saying he did not wish to compromise the independence of the local Roman Catholic Church.

Three days after the news broke of the creation of the investigative commission, there was still no public statement from former Supreme Court Associate Justice Jose Melo, 74, who had been appointed to head the panel. Despite efforts, INQUIRER reporters have been unable to contact Melo for his reaction to his appointment.

"In deference to the autonomy of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), I asked to be replaced," Gregorio told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

The 66-year-old prelate said he did not wish to place the CBCP, of which he was a

BISHOP/ A15

Probe head 'consensus builder'

By TJ Burgonio and Armand N. Nocum

FORMER ASSOCIATE JUSTICE JOSE A. R. Melo has been portrayed as a "consensus builder" in the Supreme Court.

When he begins looking into the rash of political killings, the 74-year-old Melo faces the tough task of building confidence in the commission formed by President Macapagal-Arroyo amid a local and international outcry against extrajudicial executions.

The former magistrate has the respect of his peers as a "God-fearing family man" known for his integrity and zeal to resolve his cases expeditiously in his 23 years in the judiciary.

In a tribute by former Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. in 2002, Melo was described as a "man who has not forgotten his roots and a magistrate who expeditiously afforded justice to every man."

Colleagues said Melo had shown "no

PROBE HEAD/ A15

REM ZAMORA

CALM BEFORE THE BIG BANG? Mt. Mayon looks serene and peaceful in this photograph taken early yesterday morning.

Mayon kids taught learning can be fun

By Rem Zamora

LEGAZPI CITY—NURSING STUDENTS here have been helping children in evacuation centers cope with being uprooted from their homes because of Mt. Mayon's threats to erupt.

As part of their Community Health subject, nursing students from Aquinas University in this city had been assigned to different evacuation centers where they implemented programs under the regional health unit.

"The school officials directed nursing students to focus on evacuation centers after Phivolcs raised the alert level to four," said Salve Adique, clinical instructor of 14 nursing students.

Under the regional health unit, the students were assigned activities ranging from immunization, consultation, feeding, sanitation, maternal health education and basic hygiene.

MAYON/ A6

CHILDREN-EVACUEES intently watch a skit on hygiene presented by nursing students of Aquinas University in Legazpi City. The children are staying at the San Jose Elementary School evacuation center in Malilipot, Albay.

REM ZAMORA

Peasant leader is Victim No. 247

By Chris V. Panganiban and Franklin A. Caliguid
Inquirer Mindanao
and Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

HOURS AFTER PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo announced the creation of an independent commission to investigate the wave of politically linked killings on Sunday night, another militant leader was shot and killed in Tandag, Surigao del Sur.

Unidentified men armed with automatic rifles barged into the house of Hermilito Marqueza in Barangay Maitum at around 11 p.m. and peppered him with bullets, police said.

Marqueza, leader of the Kapunungan sa mga Mag-uuma sa Surigao del Sur (United Farmers Union of Surigao del Sur), was the sixth victim of attacks on left-wing activists in Caraga this year.

At least 247 militants so far have been killed since 2001 when Ms Arroyo assumed the presidency, according to an INQUIRER tally. Of this number, 33 were peasant leaders.

According to the human rights group Karapatan, over 700 civilians, including at least 310 left-wing activists, have been killed since 2001 by suspected security forces, who often allege left-wing groups are fronts for communist rebels.

The military has denied any involvement and challenged human rights groups to produce evidence that soldiers were involved and file cases against them in court.

ANOTHER/ A15

Nursing board fallout: No takers for June passer

By Christian V. Esguerra, Leila B. Salaverria and Juliet Labog-Javellana

FIRST, SHE WENT TO A GOVERNMENT hospital near a shopping mall in Quezon City, hoping to land a job as a nurse.

Told to first fulfill the requirements—to show certificates of passing and of a board rating—Bea Tibacan, 21, went straight to another government hospital to file her application.

She also applied at a middle-class hospital nearby and another private hospital in Mandaluyong.

The hospitals all told the nursing graduate of St. Jude College in Manila that she would get a call if she was accepted. About a month has passed and she is still waiting for a call.

"They all asked me if I was a June passer," Bea told the INQUIRER yesterday. "Whenever I answered in the affirmative, the atmosphere, their tone would suddenly change," she said, of the people who took her applications.

The prospects of those who passed the tainted June nursing board exams landing a job in the United States are also bleak.

Some hospitals in the United States have sent word that they will not hire Filipino nurses who graduated this year because of the leakage in the board exams, according to Dante Ang, chair of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas.

A total of 17,871 of the 42,000 examinees passed the board exams conducted on June 11 and 12.

Like many of her fellow nursing graduates, Bea is growing frustrated while waiting for the cheating controversy to be put to rest.

The National Bureau of Investigation has yet to complete its investigation of allegations that questions and answers had been leaked prior to the

NURSING/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2006
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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western sections of Central and Southern Luzon and Western Visayas will experience occasional rains. The rest of Luzon and Visayas will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms while Mindanao will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/08/22/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

SAME OLD STORY

'I saw Galman shoot Ninoy'

By Norman Bordadora

THE DRIVER OF THE VAN THAT CARRIED THE SOLDIERS OF THE aviation Security Command to the airport where they took Benigno Aquino Jr. off the plane that brought him to Manila on Aug. 21, 1983, said yesterday he saw Rolando Galman shoot and kill the former senator.

SPO4 Ruben Cantimbuhan said he was making the statement to let the courts know his former colleagues in the Avsecom had been wrongfully convicted in the deaths of Aquino and Galman.

"I saw Galman quickly pull out a gun and shoot Ninoy," Cantimbuhan said in a news conference organized by the Public Attorney's Office and the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC).

"It was only later that night that I learned that Galman was the one in the blue maintenance uniform," said the police officer who is now with the Avsecom's successor unit, the PNP Aviation Security Group.

This developed as Chief Public Attorney Persida Rueda-Acosta asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to pardon the 15 military men convicted in the Aquino-Galman double murder case.

"It will be the finest hour of President Macapagal-Arroyo's presidency if she grants clemency to these people," Acosta said in the same news conference.

Acosta and the VACC are hoping that in light of Cantimbuhan's statement, the findings of forensic expert Jerome Bailen that Aquino was shot on the tarmac and not on the plane's stairs, coupled with the fact that the convicted soldiers are ailing in prison, the President would decide favorably on their request for a pardon.

Acosta said this was the first time Cantimbuhan revealed what he saw that afternoon.

SPO4 CANTIMBUHAN with public attorney Persida Rueda-Acosta. RAFFY LERMA

During the trial of the Avsecom men, "I was told by defense lawyer Attorney Jimenez not to testify. He told me he would get a medical certificate (to cover for my absence in the investigation and in court)," Cantimbuhan said.

"I had medical certificates even when I was not sick," he said.

Asked why it took him 23 years to reveal what he knew about the assassination, Cantimbuhan said he felt sorry for his former colleagues who were used as pawns in the conspiracy to kill Aquino.

He said he feared for his life in the years after the assassination and when the case was reopened during the Aquino administration.

"Now it's okay (if they go after me), I'm already old," he said.

Cantimbuhan said his then direct superior, Capt. Felipe Valerio, may have known that Galman was about to shoot Aquino. He said Valerio told him to "just keep quiet" when he alerted the officer about the man in blue beside MSgt. Pablo Martinez under the aircraft stairs.

Martinez had earlier executed an affidavit tagging businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, cousin of Aquino's widow, former President Corazon Aquino, as the mastermind.

Martinez is one of those in prison and for whom the PAO is seeking a pardon.

"Pablo Martinez is almost 70 now," Acosta said.

Cantimbuhan said he told Valerio in the van: "'Sir, it looks like the man beside Sergeant Martinez has a gun.' He told me, 'just keep quiet.'"

Later, Cantimbuhan said, he heard Claro Lat, one of the soldiers convicted in the double murder, say that Galman had placed his gun on Lat's shoulder when he shot Aquino.

After the assassination and with Aquino's body in the van, Cantimbuhan said Valerio ordered him to drive to Villamor Air Base. After a few minutes, he said, Valerio told him to go to "MSU" in Fort Bonifacio.

"At the MSU gate, we were met with machine guns pointed at us. Captain Valerio went down and asked me to wait in the van," Cantimbuhan said.

"After thirty minutes, Valerio returned. It was then that he said we would bring Ninoy to the hospital," he said.

Cantimbuhan said he was puzzled by their trip to the MSU, which is an intelligence unit, rather than to a hospital.

"Captain Valerio is the key to this case," Acosta said.

She said he was a commercial pilot in the US. Reports said he was in Washington state.

She said Philippine authorities will ask the US government to either extradite or deport him.

Another Pinoy dies in Iraq

A FILIPINO WORKER WAS KILLED IN northern Iraq on Aug. 12 in an apparent insurgency attack, the Department of Foreign Affairs reported yesterday.

The DFA said Rogelio Alere Saraida, 47, of Bacoor, Cavite, was in the war-torn country working for the Kuwait-based Parsons International.

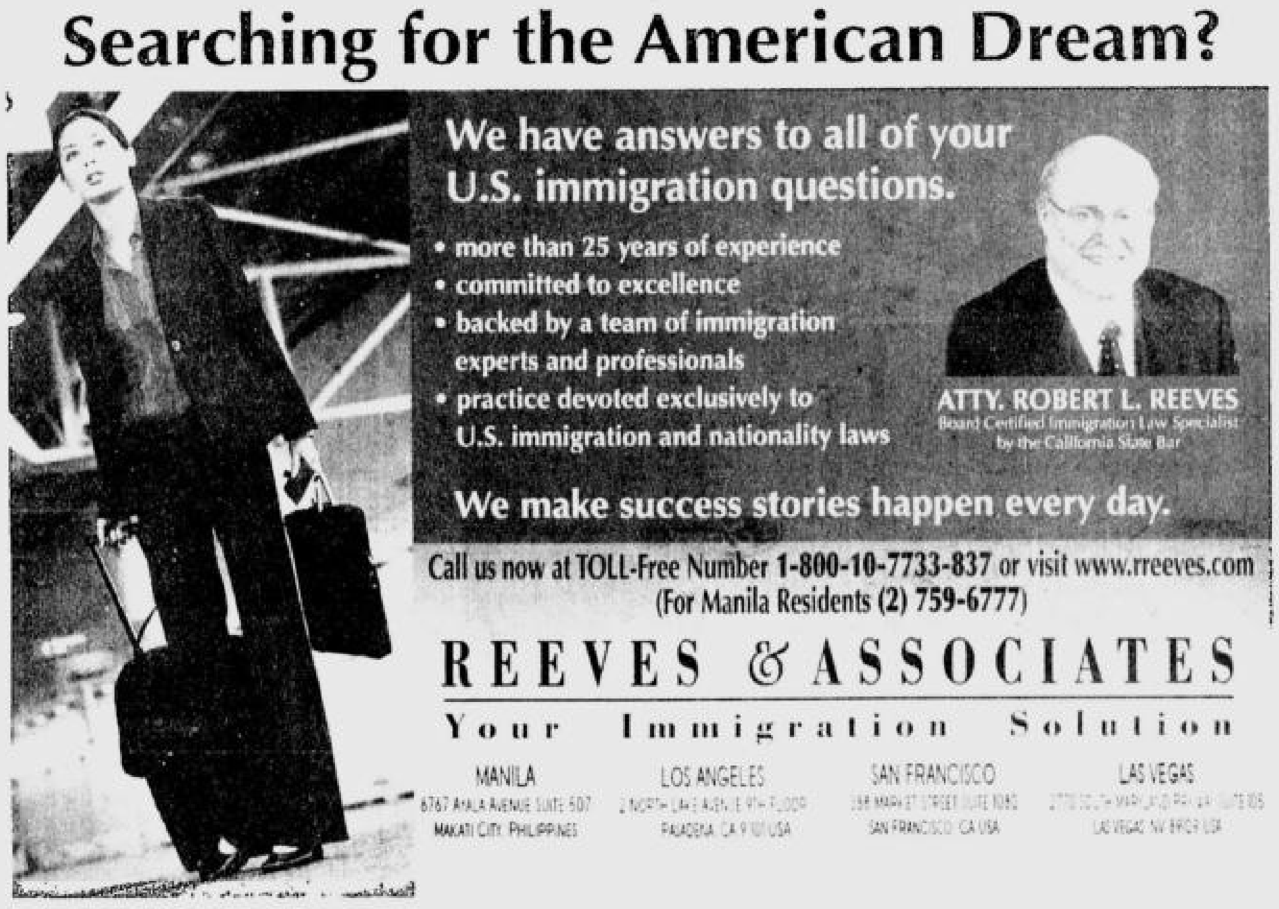
He was driving a truck as part of a Parsons convoy when his vehicle was hit apparently by a rifle-propelled grenade in Mosul, Iraq's second largest city, the DFA said.

Saraida's remains have been moved to a US military base in Kuwait as of yesterday.

Last July 30, another Filipino truck driver, Carlito Mainit, died in Iraq after an improvised explosive device hit his vehicle. His body was flown back to the country on Aug. 17.

Filipino workers have dodged the government's 2-year-old employment ban in Iraq to take up work mostly in US-run facilities. An estimated 7,000 workers have defied the ban, about 3,000 of them undocumented.

The DFA, a lead enforcer of the ban, yesterday spoke of "the Filipino community in Baghdad" as among its sources of information about Saraida.



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ROYAL BRUNEI

More Pinoys jailed in Saudi

By Volt Contreras

THREE MONTHS AFTER the king of Saudi Arabia granted a royal pardon to Filipinos in his country's prisons, Filipinos continue to be arrested in the oil-rich state.

Violations of Islamic laws and culture remain the most "common pitfalls" for Filipinos working in the kingdom, the Philippine Embassy in Riyadh said yesterday in a report to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

At least 337 Filipinos are currently in jail, mostly in the kingdom's central and eastern regions—about half of them women who had committed "immorality" by socializing in public with men other than their spouses, the embassy noted.

It was not known how recent the cases were, but they apparently involved Filipinos not covered by the pardon granted by the Saudi king to about 340 jailed Filipinos during President Macapagal-Arroyo's state visit to the kingdom in May.

The embassy said most of the current inmates were either facing charges or were already serving sentences "for activities which are legal in the Philippines but are not allowed under Saudi laws, regulations and traditions."

Their violations mostly involved the ban on alcohol and the "restrictions on interaction by unmarried couples" in public places like malls and restaurants, it said.

Of the 337 Filipinos in jail, 197 were women with 165 of them arrested for immorality.

RP underemployment worse than joblessness – DOLE

By Jerome Aning

IF YOU ARE MALE, UNSKILLED AND ONLY reached high school, you will most likely find yourself underemployed, according to a report of the Department of Labor and Employment.

Underemployment is a situation when a worker is employed, but not in the desired capacity, whether in terms of compensation, hours, or level of skill and experience.

"Rising underemployment is considered a more serious problem than unemployment since the underemployment rate is usually twice the unemployment rate," the DOLE said.

A survey of the current workforce by the Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics (BLES) revealed that while unemployment was usually a problem among the youth, the problem cut across age groups and greatly affected the less educated workers and heads of families.

According to the survey, seven out of 10 of the underemployed in 2005 were male. The number of underemployed males also grew by 3.5 percent from 2004.

Heads and non-heads of households accounted for almost the same proportion of the underemployed in 2005, with 49.5 percent and 50.5 percent share, respectively.

BLES also found out that the lower a person's education attainment was, the more likely he or she would end up underemployed. Of the nearly 7,000 workers surveyed nationwide, less than one-fifth who reached or completed college level were underemployed.

In contrast, 2 out of 5 of those who reached elementary level were underemployed, while 37 percent of those who only had high school education were underemployed.

BLES said laborers and unskilled workers comprised nearly 40 percent of the underemployed, followed by farmers, forestry workers and fishermen.

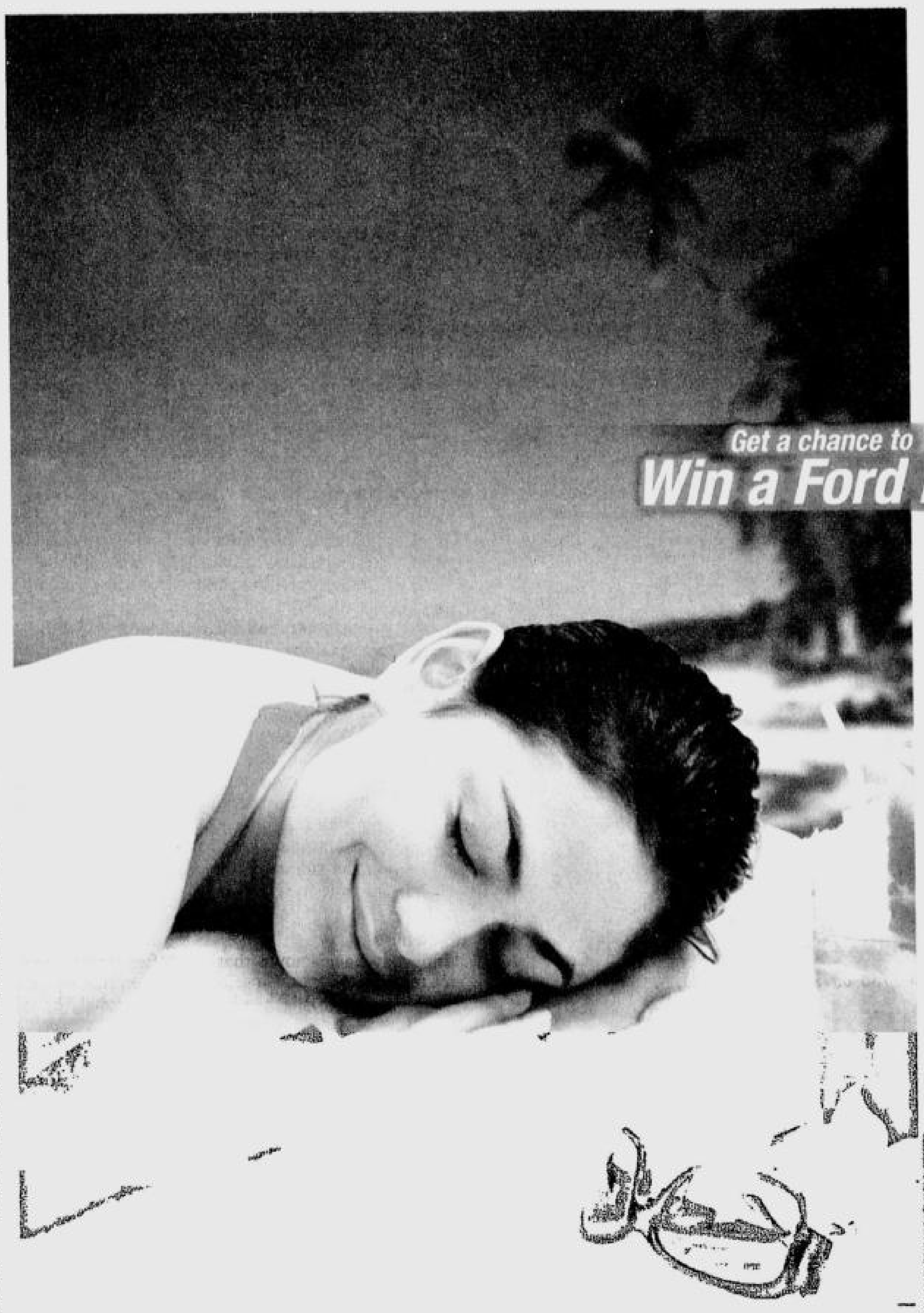
However, agricultural workers posted a higher increase (from 21.9 percent in 2004 to 25.6 percent in 2005) in underemployment compared to unskilled laborers (from 21.2 percent in 2004 to 24.7 percent in 2005).

BLES said there were about 1.576 million more workers in farms, forests and fisheries who were underemployed in 2005 compared to the previous year.

As expected, those in the prime working age group (25-54 years old) comprised the biggest portion (about 70 percent) of the underemployed.

A far second was the young bunch (15 -24 years old) accounting for almost one-fifth (20 percent) of the underemployed.

Those beyond the prime working age (55 years old and over) said they wanted to continue being productive. According to the survey, 1 out of 10 elderly workers wanted additional hours of work.



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Senate eyes ₱2-B cut in ₱46-B supplemental budget

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE SENATE IS CONSIDERING A P2-billion cut in the P46.4-billion supplemental budget Malacañang is seeking this year.

Sen. Franklin Drilon, chair of the Senate finance committee, said the chamber was certain to slash the P1.3-billion government subsidy to the Metro Rail Transit 3, and possibly the P750-million allocation for the hiring of 700 new firemen and jail guards.

Drilon and Senate President Manuel Villar said the Senate might also cut the P500-million standby fund for the repatriation of Filipino workers from Lebanon after a ceasefire was imposed in the war-torn nation.

Drilon said the P1.3-billion subsidy for the MRT3 was not in the proposed 2006 national budget, which Congress failed to approve.

"Therefore, since this is merely a supplemental budget, how in the world did we suddenly need a supplement which was not included in the 2006 (budget)? So with certainty we will remove P1.3 billion from the DOTC (Department of Transportation and Communication)," Drilon said.

Palace to propose ₱1.1-trillion budget

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG WILL SUBMIT to Congress today the proposed P1.127-trillion national budget for 2007 with the government payroll topping debt servicing as the biggest cost item for the first time since 2004.

But the most significant development in the 2007 budget is what is not in it.

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya said the government had decided to drop the P5-billion Kalayaan Barangay fund and the P3.69-billion Kilos Asenso livelihood program in order to prevent the 2007 budget from suffering the fate of the 2006 budget.

The government is currently operating on a reenacted 2005 budget after the congressional bicameral conference committee failed to pass the 2006 budget due to the Senate's insistence on excluding these small- and medium-enterprise financing programs from the budget because of the suspicion the funds would be used to bankroll the administration's Charter change agenda.

Heavy on education

Andaya said the 2007 budget (up 6.9 percent from the P1.053-trillion proposed 2006 budget) would be heavy on education and infrastructure spending in keeping with the twin goals of President Macapagal-Arroyo to develop the country's manpower and infrastructure network.

In a briefing, Andaya said the government had set high goals for 2007 with revenues expected to hit P1.1 trillion (from P974.1 billion this year) in order to keep the budget deficit below P63 billion (from P124.9 billion this year) and move the country closer to a balanced budget in 2008.

Andaya said lower debt servicing would contribute to paring the budget gap as interest payments would be kept at P318.2 billion this year, down 6.4 percent from P340 billion last year.

The share of debt payments in the total budget will go down from 32.3 percent this year to 28.2 percent next year. The last time debt servicing was not the top budget expense was in 2004, Andaya said.

Largest hike

Personal services will get the biggest slice next year with P356.8 billion, up 8.6 percent from P328.6 billion. Andaya explained that this year's spending was bloated by the pensions of uniformed personnel and World War II veterans (P13 billion), per diems of election personnel (P4.9 billion), the creation of new positions (P3.6 billion) and an increase in employee insurance premiums and overseas allowances (P932 million).

The outlay for maintenance and other operating expenses registered the largest hike of 35 percent to P150.8 billion, which Andaya attributed to higher election spending and spending for social services.

Correction

IN THIS PHOTO that appeared on Page A7 of the Aug. 21 issue, Dr. Ceres Villariba-Romano (right), daughter of Lucena City Quezon Day awardee Dean Emeritus Cesar A. Villariba, Ed.D, of Enverga University (center) was inadvertently cropped out of the picture.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, August 23, 2006
20th Week in Ordinary Time
Rose of Lima

1st Reading: Ezk 34:1-11
Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus said to his disciples, "This story throws light on the kingdom of heaven. A landowner went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay the workers a salary of a silver coin for the day, and sent them to his vineyard.

"He went out again at about nine in the morning, and seeing others idle in the square, he said to them: 'You, too, go to my vineyard and I will pay you what is just.' So they went.

"The owner went out at midday and again at three in the afternoon, and he did the same. Finally he went out at the last working hour—it was the eleventh—and he saw others standing there. So he said to them: 'Why do you stay idle the whole day?' They answered: 'Because no one has hired us.' The master said: 'Go and work in my vineyard.'

"When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager: 'Call the workers and pay them their wage, beginning with the last and ending with the first.' Those who had come to work at the eleventh hour turned up and were given a denarius each (a silver coin). When it was the turn of the first, they thought they would receive more. But they, too, received a denarius each. So, on receiving it, they began to grumble against the landowner.

"They said: 'These last hardly worked an hour, yet you have treated them the same as us who have endured the day's burden and heat.' The owner said to one of them: 'Friend, I have not been unjust to you. Did we not agree on a denarius a day? So take what is yours and go. I want to give to the last the same as I give to you. Don't I have the right to do as I please with my money? Why are you envious when I am kind?'

"So will it be: the last will be first, the first will be last."

Commentary

Ezekiel rails against the shepherds of Israel who pasture themselves at the expense of the sheep, letting them die, be scattered and lost. And God will come among those shepherds and take the sheep from them and care for them himself. Jesus' parable mirrors the state of Israel, its leaders and people, using the image of a vineyard instead of a sheepfold. All the workers will be paid the same—justice and what they need. While those who came early think they deserve more, the owner insists that he made a just deal with them. Now he chooses to give mercy to others. God will take care of all of us, but the poor, the sick and those in need first. We should be honored to be in the vineyard and able to serve God.

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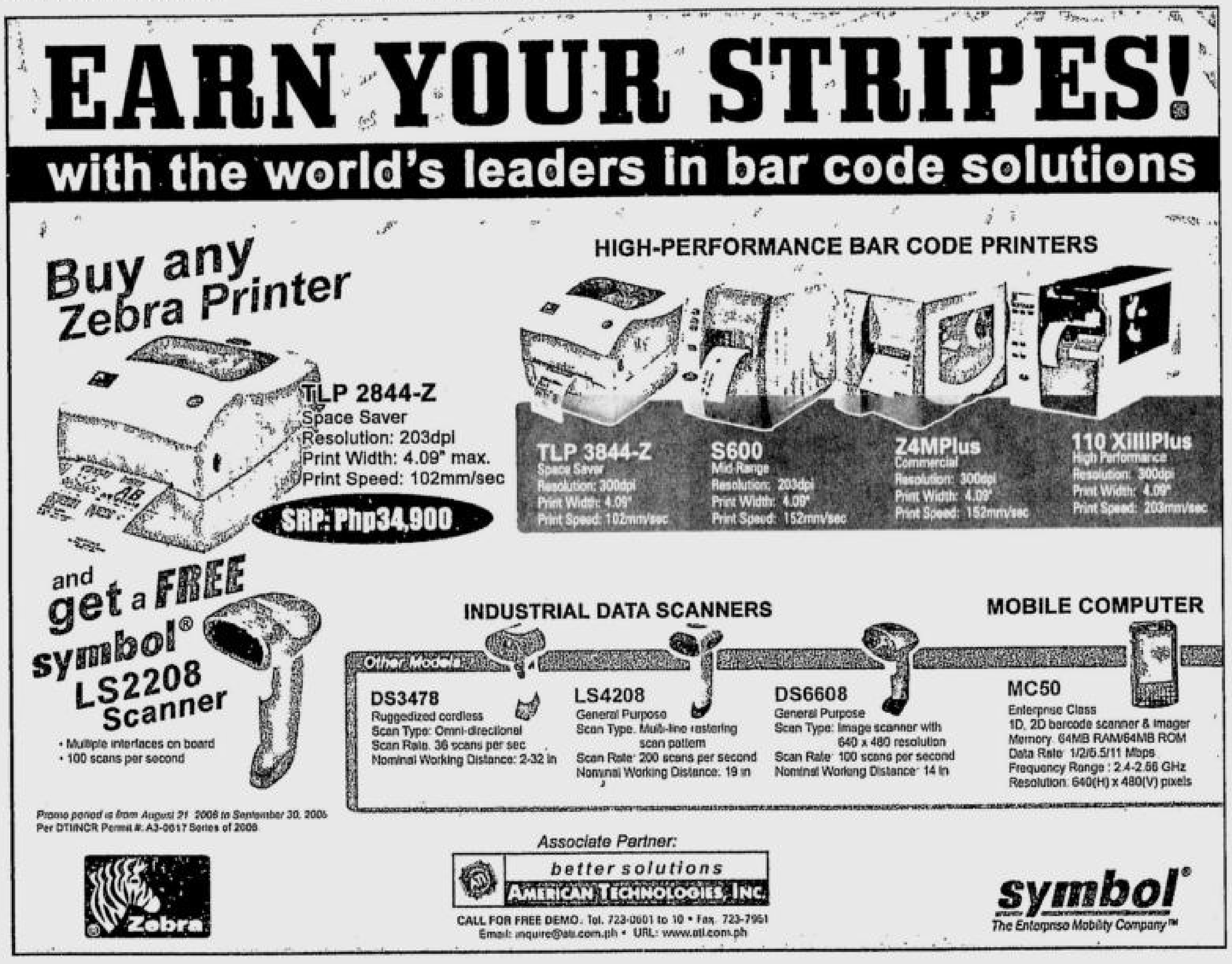

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AFP dares disgruntled soldiers: Go ahead, quit

By Dona Pazzibugan

GO AHEAD AND RESIGN.

Saying "no one is indispensable" in the service, the Armed Forces of the Philippines yesterday returned the threat of disgruntled officers to resign en masse unless President Macapagal-Arroyo herself resigns.

In a joint press conference in Camp Aguinaldo, the spokespersons of the AFP and the major services said the leadership will not stop the supposed mass resignation of officers belonging to the previously unknown group calling itself the Nationalist Officers Union.

They discredited the NOU as another "obscure group (working) in collaboration with the left."

But at the same time they stressed that contrary to the group's claim, they have not monitored any mass resignations in the Army, Navy, Air Force and the Marines (a unit under the Navy).

"The AFP is a very dynamic organization. We have an established recruitment and attrition system in place where no one among our members is indispensable," said Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro, chief of the AFP public information office.

"The AFP would never prevent anyone from resigning his commission, especially if the resignation would make the AFP a more responsive, efficient and a stable organization," he added.

Non-existent

"However we would like to advise members of this group, in case there is truth to its claim, to follow AFP regulations on the process of resignation," Bacarro added.

The national police said the organization does not exist.

"There is no such organization and no such moves have been monitored by our intelligence groups, said Philippine National Police spokesperson Sr. Supt. Samuel Pagdilao.

Pagdilao said what the police monitored were thousands of people eager to join the PNP—not leave it.

"We have 4,500 quota for recruitment this year, and out of this, there are about 10,000 to 12,000 applicants. That's how interested our countrymen desperately in need of jobs are," he said.

On the eve of the House of Representatives' plenary session where they would tackle the second impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo, a group of officers calling itself the NOU came out with the threat of mass resignation.

In a statement released Monday, the NOU said the mass resignations is their response to persistent allegations of election cheating against Ms Arroyo.

'Critical mass'

An Army colonel, a Marine lieutenant colonel and a sergeant from the Army's First Scout Ranger Regiment gave an interview, saying they already have the "critical mass" among the military and the police officers corps and that would make their move soon.

According to their plan, the mass resignation should put Ms Arroyo in a dilemma. If she accepts the resignations, she would be left with a crippled military.

If she does not accept them, her leadership would be weakened by the military's loss of confidence which should lead to her eventual resignation.

Bacarro said the wording of the statement, which was written in Filipino, as well as "other evidence" which he refused to reveal led them to believe that leftist groups are behind the NOU.

AFP spokesperson Maj. Gen. Jose Honrado said they did not know anything about the group and pleaded with media to "share" their information.

No resignations

"We're not exerting efforts to unmask (the Army colonel interviewed) because anybody has the right to resign. We're not preventing them from resigning. We will always find a substitute for (them)," Army spokesperson Maj. Ernesto Torres said.

"There is no sign of any mass resignation whatsoever," said Navy spokesperson Cmdr. Giovanni Carlo Bacordo, adding that the disgruntled officers should come out since "resignation is not an offense."

Marines spokesperson Lt. Col. Ariel Caculitan said the Marines are preoccupied with manhunt operations in Sulu against Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khaddafy Janjalani to be affected by politics in Manila.

"There is not one Marine who has tendered his resignation," he said.

Air Force spokesperson Maj. Augusto dela Peña said military pilots resign not in political protest but in search of "greener pastures" as commercial airline pilots.

"What we have are normal resignations, he said.

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Mayon kids taught learning can be fun

VISITORS view Mayon Volcano from Lignon Hills in Legazpi City early Tuesday morning. REM ZAMORA

ANGELICA Amurao pretends to be a child suffering from a bum stomach after eating junk food. Amurao and two other nursing students of Aquinas University in Legazpi City taught children at an evacuee center in Malilipot, Albay, proper hygiene and nutrition. REM ZAMORA

From page A1

On Saturday, Adique and 14 students visited the evacuation center at the San Jose Elementary School in Malilipot, Albay.

The students, divided into four teams, were given the freedom to choose how they would present their assigned programs. Many gave straight lectures which was the easiest to do.

Three students, however, decided to make learning fun. Angelica Amurao, Charisse Gonzales and Mark Angelo Cestina were assigned to teach proper hygiene to the children. Instead of giving a straight lecture, they presented a 5-10 minute skit on the topic.

Cestina played the role of the father while Amurao and Gonzales pretended to be his two children. The father told his children to eat breakfast before going to school. One child ate nutritious food while the other ate junk food. The latter had a stomachache.

The team discussed the skit with the children, asking questions like: What is nutritious food? What is junk food? Why should you eat nutritious food and not junk food?

The group also tackled topics, like washing the hands before eating and the proper way to do it, as well as brushing the teeth after every meal and the correct way to do it.

"We have to adjust to the children's level to get their attention," said Amurao, who thought of using a skit to get their lesson across.

"People our age easily get distracted and bored during lectures. How much more children aged 7 and younger?" she said.

She was right. The children were attentive throughout the skit and the discussion. The team also gave out biscuits and juices as prizes to the children who participated in the discussion.

There were some nursing students who encountered problems, Adique said, but only at the beginning.

Some of the evacuees were hesitant to allow the nursing students to enter their temporary shelter. But their hesitation changed to curiosity and then cooperation, when they realized the students were there to help them.

Adique revealed that the nursing students shelled out P35 of their own money, sometimes more, to pay for the snacks of the children. They also paid for the visual aids and other materials used in the programs. One student even donated toothbrushes.

"I just hope they (evacuees) won't get used to dole-outs," Adique said.

Terror drive nets big haul of branded …

From page A1

even designer perfumes.

Airport police and airline authorities are in a dilemma on what to do with the liquid and gel items they had confiscated from passengers following the global terror alert in international airports worldwide.

Already, some 37 boxes have been filled with sequestered articles from US-bound passengers alone, since the ban was implemented at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) a week ago, according to Senior Supt. Pablo Francisco Balagtas, chief of the 1st Police Center for Aviation Security (PCAS).

"We are drawing up a standard procedure in coordination with airline operators and Miaa (Manila International Airport Authority) management whereby, if these items remain unclaimed, we would give them to charity," said Aviation Security Group (ASG) deputy chief for operations Senior Supt. Atilano Morada.

Carrying liquid substances—except for baby formula, breast milk or insulin—in hand bags has been banned in airports, part of the local authorities' response to the terror threat bared by British investigators early this month.

According to reports, the terror plot involved the smuggling of liquid bombs whose parts would be assembled on the plane and then detonated while in transit.

Stubborn passengers

Despite advisories posted all over Naia 1 and the Centennial Terminal that liquid and gel items should be placed in checked-in luggage, there were many passengers who insisted on bringing them in their hand bags.

According to Morada, passengers passed through at least three levels of security checks before boarding an aircraft. During each check, they were told to transfer liquid substances to their checked-in luggage or to leave them with their relatives seeing them off.

US-bound airlines also conducted their own security checks, Morada told reporters at a weekly forum in Camp Crame.

In the case of bottled water, he said passengers were asked, as a matter of procedure, to drink the water before boarding the plane.

Return our stuff

Despite the repeated warnings, some passengers hung on to their liquid substances until the final security check, Morada said.

Passengers had also called the ASG to claim their confiscated items but police deemed it prudent to course the return through the airlines.

"We want to make sure they are the real owners of the items and only the airlines can confirm the identities of their passengers," Balagtas told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

The airlines, however, were hesitant to return the items.

A gel bomb?

The AOC said the airlines preferred that confiscated items be discarded instead.

"It's for everyone's protection," explained Leoncio Nakpil, AOC chair.

Nakpil said getting rid of the items would "allay suspicions" that there were parties interested in recycling or re-selling them after confiscation.

"And what if there's something among the confiscated items containing an explosive material and it goes off while in the possession of the police?" added Ed Monreal, AOC vice chair.

Monreal said airlines had received calls from passengers inquiring on how they could get back their confiscated possessions.

Both the airport police and the airline officials noted that it was also the passengers' responsibility to know and follow the security measures being implemented at the Naia in light of the renewed global terror scare.

Follow guidelines

Supt. Rizalino Roxas said there were many passengers who stubbornly insisted on bringing the banned items in their hand-carried bags.

"*Makulit talaga* (They were stubborn)," Roxas said.

Roxas, who heads the airport police intelligence and operations group, said the ASG and the AOC would meet this week to discuss what to do with the confiscated items.

"There's already a set of guidelines and procedures. We do want to discard the items but we also have to follow some guidelines," Roxas said.

Suspicious

Balagtas said that while most of the passengers were "appreciative" of the stringent security measures, the police had encountered a few who were angry, suspicious and downright rude.

"There were instances when passengers would spray the perfume just to make sure that only half of its contents would be left before turning them over to the police," Balagtas said.

Other items confiscated were bottles of mineral water and toothpaste and lipsticks, which are "solid creams," and are also prohibited.

These items were banned on trans-Pacific flights immediately after Scotland Yard on Aug. 10 discovered a terrorist plot which involved blowing up US-bound airlines using liquid-based explosives.

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Makati court halts action on Batasan 5

By Tarra V. Quismundo

AS A MATTER OF "JUDICIAL COURTESY" TO the Supreme Court, a Makati judge yesterday suspended proceedings on the government's rebellion case against five militant lawmakers, a former senator and 40 others tagged in an alleged Leftist-Rightist plot to violently oust President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 150 Judge Elmo Alameda ordered the suspension of proceedings on the justice department's case against party-list Representatives Satur Ocampo, Teodoro Casiño and Joel Virador of Bayan Muna, Rafael Mariano of Anakpawis and Liza Maza of Gabriela, former Senator Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan and known leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army.

"Wherefore, this court, exercising judicial courtesy to the Supreme Court, hereby orders the suspension of all proceedings in this case in deference to whatever resolution the Supreme Court will issue on the pending certiorari proceedings," said Alameda in his order.

Petition sought

The lawmakers, collectively known as Batasan 5, had sought the suspension citing their pending petition before the Supreme Court which questioned the validity of the Department of Justice's (DOJ) preliminary investigation on the rebellion charges.

The case remains unresolved even while the DOJ had already terminated preliminary hearings and elevated the case to court on May 12. The Supreme Court issued a status quo order on the case on June 5 pending its ruling.

The order however did not stop proceedings in the lower court, and the case even went on to be consolidated with a separate rebellion case the DOJ filed earlier against Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran and 1st Lt. Lawrence San Juan, among rebel soldiers that staged a daylong mutiny in Makati City three years ago. *With a report from Philip Tubeza*

Cayetano won't join Mike A in trip to Germany

By Michael Lim Ubac

FIRST GENTLEMAN JOSE MIGUEL ARROYO is set to fly to Germany on Thursday to disprove the existence of a multimillion-dollar bank account in his name in Hypovereins Bank in Munich.

But the person who disclosed the existence of the alleged account, House Deputy Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano, will not be going with him after refusing to accept the plane ticket personally delivered to him by the First Gentleman's lawyer and spokesperson, Jesus Santos.

In front of TV cameras, Cayetano said he would only go with Arroyo to San Francisco, California, to check on the latter's 24-unit apartment building, or to Makati and Caloqcan cities to inspect the First Gentleman's undeclared properties.

Cayetano also dared the spouse of President Macapagal-Arroyo and the rest of the First Family to sign a waiver to allow the opposition to examine their bank accounts.

Last week, Cayetano said he had discovered an account belonging to a member of the First Family at Hypovereins Bank.

Yesterday, Santos presented Cayetano with a round-trip ticket on Lufthansa Airways worth P224,245 that had been bought by Mr. Arroyo with funds from the First Gentleman's foundation.

"Whether Representative Cayetano joins us or not, we will go to Germany with media people to prove that he is lying," Arroyo said.

Cayetano said the trip was "useless" since without a waiver from the First Family, under bank secrecy laws bank officials could not the account in the German bank.

Cayetano said that as an alternative, President Arroyo could order her allies in the House to open the seven boxes of evidence the opposition submitted to the justice committee that held the proof that she had cheated in the 2004 elections and had committed the other offenses she was accused of committing and for which her impeachment was sought.

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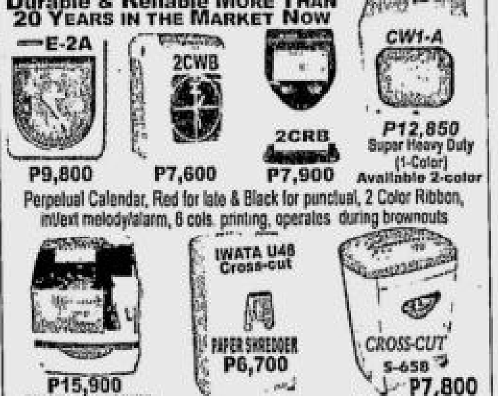

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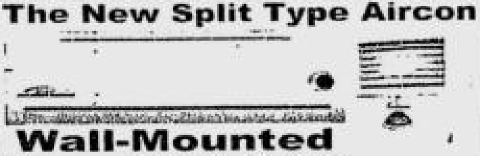

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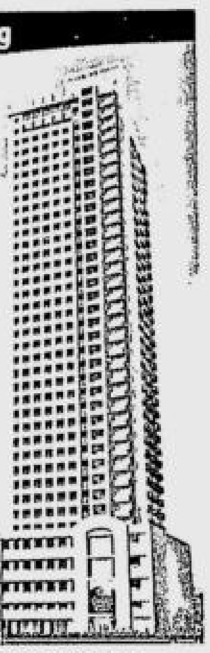

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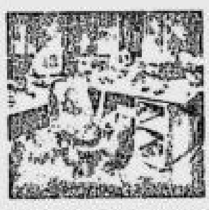

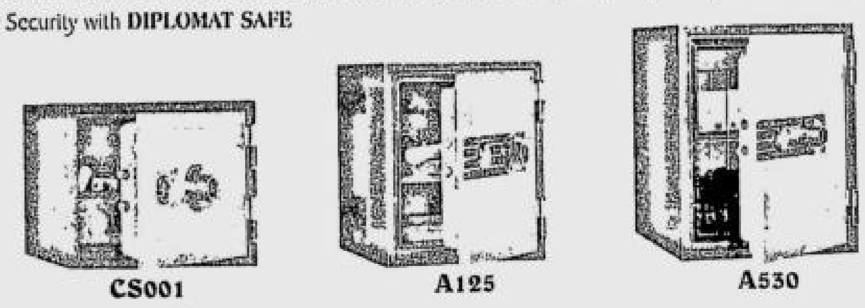

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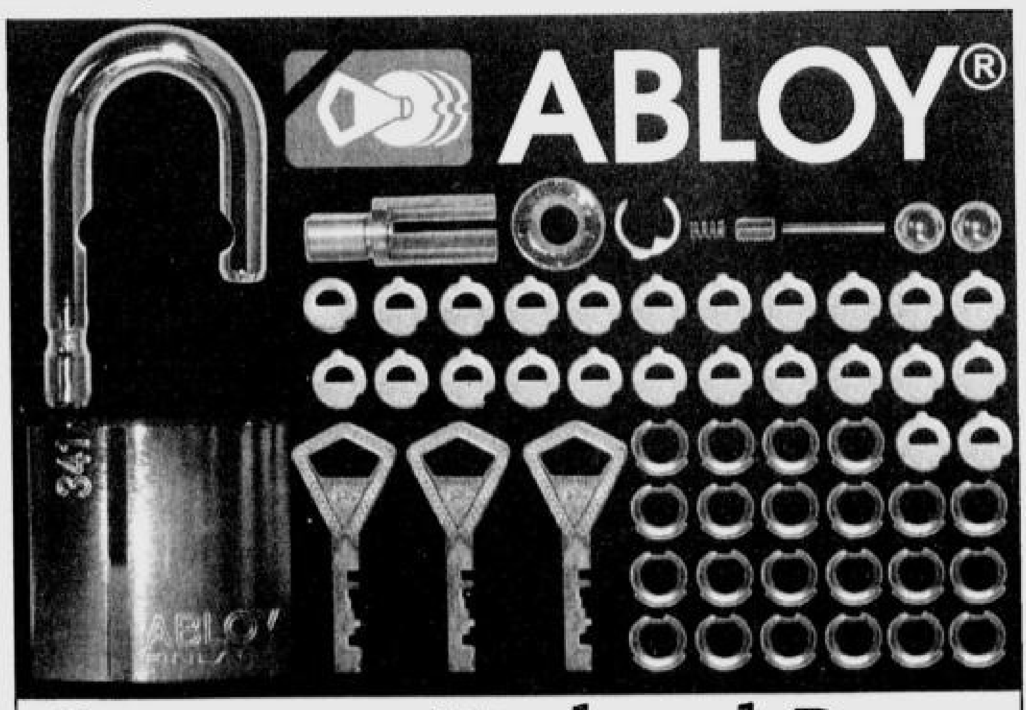

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Oil still oozing out of sunken tanker

From page A1

The spill has spread to more than 300 km of coastline on Guimaras Island, according to the civil defense office.

The spill will have far-reaching consequences beyond Guimaras and even Negros Occidental, if it hits the Visayan Sea, considered one of the richest fishing grounds in Asia, said Maria Athena Ronquillo Ballesteros, Greenpeace International Climate Energy campaigner.

"Petron's resources are better spent on cleanup and rehab efforts instead of arguing over leakage," Ballesteros said.

Greenpeace expects Negros Occidental to be affected by the spill if the oil slick is not contained and the tanker is not recovered soon.

The country has sought the help of the United States, Japan and Indonesia to contain the oil spill because it lacks the technology to refloat the sunken tanker or to remove the bunker fuel oil still in its hold.

Japan disaster relief team

Responding to the Philippine request for help, the Japan Disaster Relief Team—three experts from the Japan Coast Guard and an official from the Japan International Cooperation Agency—was scheduled to arrive yesterday to assess the cleanup operation, a Japanese Embassy statement said.

They will join a Japanese expert on combating oil spills who arrived Sunday in the island-province of Guimaras.

Capt. Luis Tuason, a PCG regional commander, said two to three US Coast Guard experts were expected to arrive either yesterday or today.

The 998-ton tanker Solar I was transporting about 2 million liters of bunker fuel from the Petron refinery in Limay, Bataan, to Zamboanga del Sur when it sank in bad weather off Guimaras on Aug. 11.

PCG officials said the tanker, believed to be lying in 900 meters (2,950 feet) of water, had spewed some 350,000 liters of oil.

Iloilo officials have ordered the setting up of improvised oil spill booms using bamboo poles and absorbent materials like dried grass and *dagami* (rice straw) along the coast of Iloilo, including Iloilo City.

Mayor Raul Banias of Concepcion town in Iloilo said patches of bunker fuel had reached seven barangays in his town, including the coastal villages of Nipa and Plandico and the island-barangays of Dungon, Polopiña, Malangabang, Tambaliza and Botlog.

At least 12,000 residents, most of whom rely on fishing for their livelihood, have been affected.

A DIVER from the environmental group Greenpeace holds up his oil-stained hands as his group installs spill booms in Barangay La Paz, Nueva Valencia, on Tuesday. ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

Bantayan Island

Officials of Bantayan, Cebu, were alarmed over the possibility of the oil spill reaching their shores.

Bantayan Island, composed of the municipalities of Bantayan, Sta. Fe and Madridejos, is rich in marine resources and is said to be within the migration route of fish from the China Sea.

Bantayan Mayor Geralyn Escario-Cañares said Visayan Sea Squadron and IBP National Environmental team leader Antonio Oposa had called her attention to the oil spill.

The spread of the oil slick to Bantayan waters was imminent, according to Oposa. He said the slick would reach Bantayan in the next few days, due to the southwest monsoon.

Bad weather

Bad weather has hampered the cleanup operations.

Visibility was poor because of heavy rains, making it difficult for the Coast Guard to locate oil streaks on the water that needed to be sprayed with dispersants, Jarder said.

He noted that many of the people involved in the cleanup operations were exhausted and were suffering health problems.

In Iloilo City, the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council (RDCC) in Western Visayas had ordered the suspension of the manual cleanup of shorelines in Guimaras by residents who had no protective gear.

Chief Supt. Geary Barias, RDCC chair, said the decision was based on the recommendation of health officials that only residents with rubber boots, gloves and face masks would be allowed to continue working.

Petron Corp. has hired some 1,000 residents, mostly fisherfolk from areas affected by the oil, to provide them with a temporary source of income after the spill destroyed or seriously damaged their livelihood.

The residents are paid P200 per day to manually scoop debris contaminated with bunker fuel from the coastline of Guimaras Island.

Dr. May Ann Santa Lucia, health emergency coordinator of the Department of Health regional office, said many were working barefoot and scooping up contaminated debris with their bare hands.

Santa Lucia said the workers should be required to use rubber gloves and boots to prevent skin irritations and diseases. Face masks are also necessary because the pungent fumes from the bunker fuel could trigger asthma attacks and cause other pulmonary disorders.

List of gear

Petron has asked for a list of the gear to be used by the workers. Until the gear arrives, only those with protection should be allowed to work, Santa Lucia said.

The Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) has sent 500 boots and 1,000 pairs of rubber gloves to Guimaras for use in the cleanup.

Sen. Richard Gordon, PNRC chair, directed the Red Cross chapter in Guimaras to provide humanitarian assistance to people affected by the oil spill. *With reports from Volt Contreras in Manila and Diosa Labiste and Jhunnex Napallacan, Inquirer Visayas*

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From page A1

exams. The Court of Appeals has yet to decide on a petition seeking to nullify the results of the test.

Experiencing discrimination

In the meantime, Bea's plan of working in the United States hangs in the balance. The second of five children, she said her plan was to work right away to help her three siblings who were still in school.

She said the stigma of being part of the infamous "Batch of June 2006" had taken its toll on her.

"I feel very low," she said. "I really came in prepared for the exams and I knew I passed (with no leakage whatsoever). Yet I, and many others, am experiencing discrimination. It's very unfair."

Willing to take exams again

If only to salvage her dignity and future, Bea said she was willing to take the exams again.

Bea said she was hoping that the investigation would soon be completed and that it would determine who were the people behind the leakage.

"Examinees who cheated should never be given a license," she said.

Ang said an inter-agency task force looking into the leakage was also asking the Court of Appeals to invalidate the oath-taking of nurses who took the controversial exam and order the graduates to again take the two tests affected by the leakage.

"We will file a case in the Court of Appeals as an intervenor," Ang said in a phone interview.

Some 3,000 of the 17,871 who passed the board exams were able to take their oaths on Aug. 18, hours before the Court of Appeals stopped the mass oath-taking scheduled by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) for Aug. 22.

The PRC on Aug. 17 decided to allow the passers to take their oaths at office nationwide. The next day, issued a temporary restraini which PRC Chair Leonor Ro reached the PRC at 4:30 p.m.

PRC against take-two for p

To comply with the TRO, the terday stopped the oath-taking who passed the June nursing examination. But it said it wa compelling all those who took exams to take the exams again i ber.

Rosero made the announce those who passed the exams tr the PRC office in Manila to whether they would still be abl their oaths and register as nurse

She also said the PRC would those who had already taken t from registering as nurses.

"Those who took their oat the TRO was issued could stil because they were not cover order," Rosero said in a pho view.

She said she was not amena quiring those who took the boa in June to again take even jus and V, the parts of the exams t the leakage.

"When we released the resul June 2006 exams, we decided t would be no retake. Why woul lease the results if we would jus retake?" Rosero said.

She said the PRC believed th removed the effect of the leak the exams by invalidating 20 lea tions in Test III and reducing th of Test V because 90 of its 100 were leaked.

Waiver

Rosero said those who passed exams but did not want to be a with them could still voluntaril exams again in December by sub waiver seeking to invalidate the

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GMA forms task force to oversee oil spill cleanup

By Christine O. Avendaño

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO formed a task force yesterday to oversee the cleanup of the country's worst oil spill and the retrieval of the bunker fuel oil still in the hold of the tanker that sank off Guimaras Island on Aug. 11.

The task force was formed after Ms Arroyo met with Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz, Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes, Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza and Philippine Coast Guard chief Vice Admiral Art Gosingan.

Also present at the meeting were Sen. Richard Gordon and officials of Petron Corp.

Joining the defense, environment, transportation departments and the PCG in the task force are the departments of health and energy.

Cruz, head of Task Force Guimaras, said the formation of the group more than two weeks after the disaster did not come late.

"The forming of the task force is to formalize what had been happening on the ground and in order for government to have a plan for the medium and long term," Cruz told reporters.

He said he expected that the cost of cleaning up and retrieving the oil from the sea would be "substantial" but noted that Petron and the owner of the MT Solar I would foot the bill.

Reyes said it was difficult to estimate the cost of the damage to the environment and to the economy at this point because the sunken tanker continued to leak. He described the oil spill as a "disaster in progress."

Cruz said the PCG was assigned to lead the retrieval of the oil from the sea and to investigate the cause of the spill through its Special Board of Marine Inquiry.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources will be responsible for preventing further damage to the environment.

Mendoza said he had ordered the creation of the Special Board of Marine Inquiry to determine the culpability of those involved in the spill. It was set to hold its first hearing today at the PCG headquarters.

"We expect to finish the investigation as soon as possible and bring to justice the person responsible for this catastrophe," Mendoza said.

Cruz said the task force would release money to the provincial disaster coordinating councils of Guimaras, Iloilo and Negros Occidental to compensate people involved in the cleanup operations. A person is paid P200 a day for the work.

"Petron will be reimbursing these funds and most important, Petron has assumed the responsibility of surveying all the way to recovering and siphoning off the remaining oil still in the sunken vessel," the defense secretary said.

In the Senate, Senate President Manuel Villar said Petron must be made to pay for the damage wrought by the spill. He has filed a resolution seeking a Senate inquiry into the oil spill.

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines will also conduct a fact-finding investigation. *With reports from Armand N. Nocum and Juliet Labog-Javellana*

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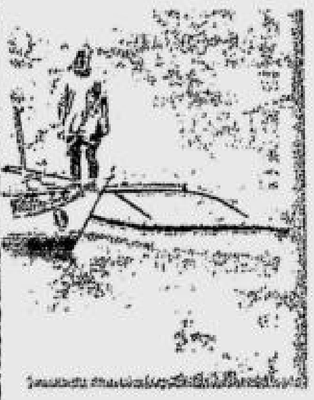
A BOY watches an oil-stained crab scurrying along the shores of Barangay Tando, Nueva Valencia.


THE OIL slick from the sunken tanker off Guimaras now threatens the waters off Barangay Nipa in Concepcion, Iloilo.

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the previous exams.

She also said that releasing the results of the exams did not mean that the PRC would not penalize those who would be found to have cheated.

Ang said the Task Force on the US National Council Licensure Exams (NCLEx), which he heads, had taken the position that the graduates who took the June nursing exams should be made to retake Tests III and V.

The task force includes the Department of Foreign Affairs, NBI and the Intellectual Property Office.

Mediocre

Ang noted that after the PRC reduced the weights of the two subjects, the passing mark was based only on 80 percent of the exams.

"If you lowered your bar of excellence, you lowered your bar of competence and that is not good for the credibility of our nurses. At best, you're a mediocre nurse," Ang said.

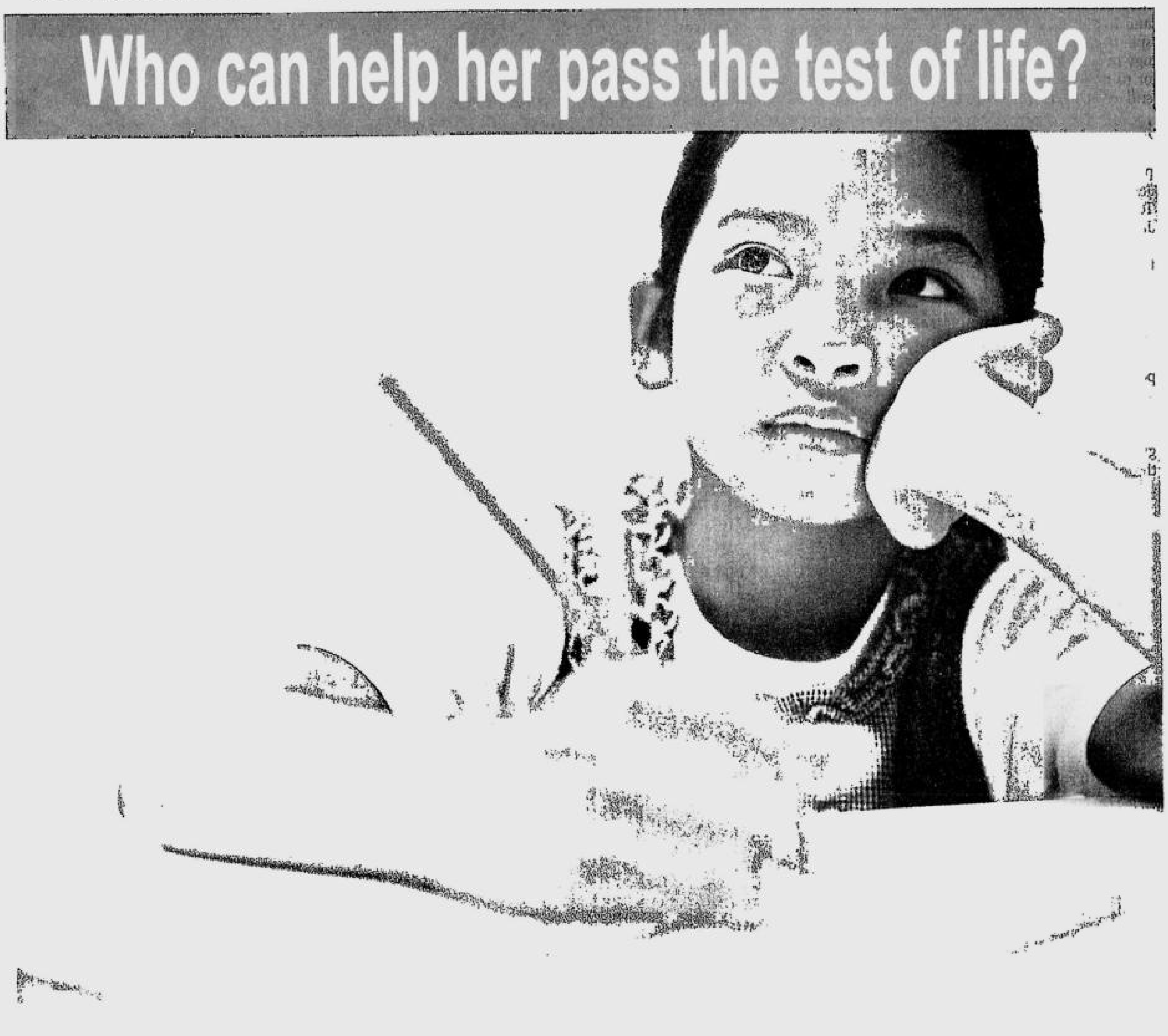
The leakage has adversely affected the credibility of Filipino nurses and the country's nursing profession.

"It is terrible because the NCSBN (National Commission for State Boards of Nursing in the US) has deferred the Philippines as a possible testing center indefinitely," Ang said.

Prior to the leakage, he said the NCSBN had placed the Philippines on the agenda for consideration as a testing site for the National Council Licensure Examination, an entry level exam that Filipino nurses must pass to be able to practice in the United States.

The Philippines, a top exporter of nurses to the United States, is seeking to become an NCLEx testing site because 83 percent of those who take the NCLEx are Filipino nurses, according to Ang.

Outside of the United States, Hong Kong, Britain, South Korea, Taiwan, Japan and Indonesia have been designated testing sites.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OPINION

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Menace over Melo

EDITORIAL

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S DECISION—after international pressure made it impossible to continue stonewalling local demands for action—to appoint an investigative commission made the news around the world. Her decision shows that the issue of human rights cannot just be set aside so that the country can "move on." So now, the country awaits what the commission tasked to investigate political murders will do.

While the National Democratic Front has criticized the appointment of retired Supreme Court Justice Jose Melo and others, on the basis of the members' not being known for their advocacy of human rights, at least the President didn't appoint individuals known for their hostility to human rights. Melo's reputation, too, despite his having worked for former President Diosdado Macapagal, hasn't sparked the same derision that President Ferdinand Marcos' appointment of Chief Justice Enrique Fernando did in the wake of Ninoy Aquino's assassination.

However, it has been pointed out that the President invested the commission with powers, under the Administrative Code, that could render the commission "toothless." The reason being that while the commission can issue subpoenas, it lacks powers to punish those who choose to disobey its summons. The commission would have to appeal to the courts, and could possibly get bogged down in litigation instead of pursuing investigation. And of course, the committee could spend months investigating things and it could surprise the country by issuing a breathtakingly independent and credible report, but there is no guarantee that the administration would not simply lock up the report. Shelving reports is a tried and tested tactic of the Palace. Where, for instance, is the Mayuga report? Where are Hilario Davide's recommendations on electoral reforms? We can ask the President, but then neither she nor her Cabinet is talking.

It took remedial legislation during the administration of President Corazon Aquino to arm the Davide Commission, tasked with investigating coup attempts and their causes, with the powers to compel witnesses to testify and obey its summons. Ms Arroyo's legal team, which was resourceful enough to plagiarize portions of Marcos' martial law proclamation last February, must surely be competent enough to have looked at previous commissions and their weaknesses and seen the need for legislation. But the President has shown no inclination to ask Congress for a special law.

Neither has she shown any desire to respond to criticism of the man who is at the heart of the alarming human rights situation in the country, Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan. As we have repeatedly pointed out, the President has gone out of her way to praise him and by doing so, she has endorsed the man and his controversial methods.

Palparan, in turn, has been, to put it mildly, incendiary in his opinions. While he insists that neither he nor the Armed Forces have a policy of liquidating civilian enemies of the state, he proudly—and boldly—asserts that he has urged victims of the New People's Army's extortion to take the law into their own hands. He says that it isn't his fault if civilians decide to strike back at the NPA. His endorsement of vigilante methods is a betrayal of everything his uniform should represent: a dedication to the rule of law, to orderly and established procedures, to the limitations that should exist not only on military activities among civilian populations, but also, on violence in general.

Even people affiliated with the NDF refrain from questioning the right of the government to defend itself against armed rebels. The whole issue raised by the deterioration of the human rights situation in the country involves the slaughter (there is no other word) of noncombatant civilians and the terrorizing of provincial populations.

It will take tremendous courage for a commission to do its work of investigating the Armed Forces, the Philippine National Police and their officers under the shadow of generals like Palparan. His will be a long and menacing shadow cast on the credibility and effectiveness of the Melo Commission.

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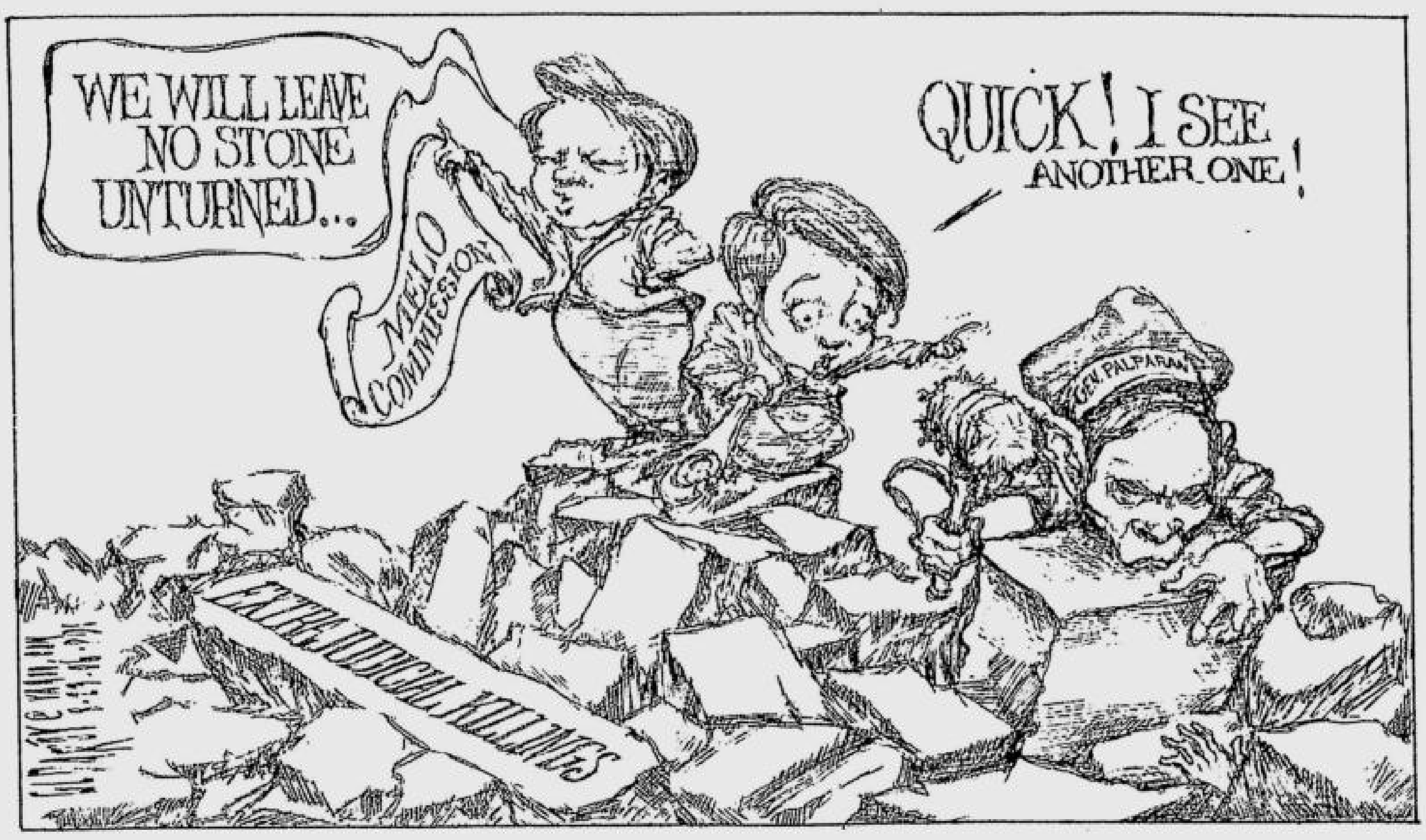


Is OGCC being pressured to reverse opinion?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

ILOCOS SUR GOV. CHAVIT SINGSON MADE A surprise appearance at last Monday's Kapihan sa Manila to defend his role in the controversial forcible takeover of the Poro Point seaport. It was a timely appearance because the invited guests were lawyer Brigido Dulay, legal counsel of the Poro Point Industrial Corp. (PPIC), which was the victim of the takeover, and Sen. Manuel Villar, the new president of the Senate, which is to investigate the takeover starting tomorrow. Singson is generally suspected of being the "mastermind" in the attempts to take away the operation of the seaport from the PPIC, a consortium composed of Bulk Handlers Inc. (BHI) a private investor, and the government.

Singson denied that he is the "mastermind" although he admitted that it was he who made "*sumbong*" to President Macapagal-Arroyo about the anomalous PPIC contract which, he said, was awarded (1) without any public bidding; (2) was grossly disadvantageous to the government; (3) the lease rate of P50 million a year is too low because the port was already earning more than that before its operation was awarded to the PPIC; and (4) the PPIC, which is 30 percent-owned by the government, does not pay any dividends to the shareholders.

He also said that the contract provides that BHI invest P840 million to develop the Poro Point Free Port and Economic Zone but seven years later, there is still no development. He told the President about these issues, he said, as presidential adviser for Northern Luzon and as former chair of the Regional Development Council. He denied that he has any "personal interest" in the takeover of the seaport.

Dulay refuted Singson's claims one by one. He said that the port was bidded out during the administration of President Fidel V. Ramos (not President Estrada) and that there were several bidders, one of them being R-II Builders; that the contract was advantageous to the government as it is now earning at least a P50-million annual net profit from the port whereas it was making an average profit of less than P30 million when it was being operated by the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA); and that in addition to the P50 million, the government is earning another 30 percent of the net profit of the PPIC in recorded dividends.

As for the lack of development, Dulay asked, how can we develop the seaport when the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) has turned over to us only 18 hectares of the 84 hectares stipulated in the contract? Documents show that the Poro Point Management Corp. (PPMC)—the government agency that co-owns the PPIC along with the BCDA and BHI—formally informed the latter that it cannot turn over the rest of the land because there are claimants (mostly mining companies) who have titles to the property.

Last January, BHI tried to get the BCDA to deliver to it the undelivered parcels of land and warned that it might take legal action if it continued to fail to deliver its commitments.

After that "warning," the PPMC attempted to pass a resolution that the contract was "not valid."

However, the BCDA president, retired Gen. Narciso Abaya, told this writer in a private interview that he and the BCDA board consider the contract "valid and binding." The private investor was not mollified, however, because Abaya's statement contained a "veiled threat": Abaya said the PPIC contract "remains valid unless the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC) reverses itself." What does he mean?

Since 1999, the OGCC has subjected the BCDA-BHI contract to several reviews and consistently concluded that the deal is valid and binding. Does the Abaya statement imply that the OGCC is preparing to reverse its legal opinion?

The OGCC findings of validity and legality were further supported by legal studies made by the BCDA's and PPMC's own legal departments. A few years ago, however, BCDA legal counsel Arnel Casanova blew the whistle and revealed in a letter that there was "pressure" on him "from a very influential person" to reverse the findings of validity and legality. When he did not do it, the Aug. 5 forcible takeover followed.

While conceding that the BCDA-BHI contract was "valid and binding," Abaya passed the blame for the takeover to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, which had quickly issued a "cease-and-desist order" to the PPIC because of alleged complaints of pollution of the sea from Mayor Maryjane Ortega of San Fernando City. The Department of Transportation and Communications then ordered the PPA to take over the operation of the Poro port. The PPIC obtained a writ of injunction from the San Fernando court, but the PPA did not honor it. It called on the Coast Guard and the San Fernando police force to help it enforce the takeover. The PPIC obtained another temporary restraining order from the court but the PPA is still in possession and control of the port until now. The port is at a standstill; cargo cannot be loaded and unloaded, and business in Northern Luzon suffers because companies cannot get their shipments delivered.

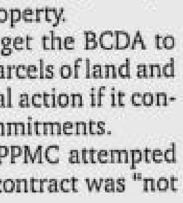
Singson and Dulay were asked if their parties could talk to each other and arrive at a compromise so that the port could reopen and the businessmen depending on it would not suffer further. They replied that they were willing to talk, and shook hands for the photographers.

As the cameras flashed, Singson said: "This does not mean *ayos na ang lahat. Marami pang dapat pag-usapan.*"

Miracles

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



I SAW AN INTERESTING PLAY AT PETA LAST Saturday. In case you still don't know, Peta no longer mounts plays in Rajah Sulaiman, Fort Santiago, it has its own home now on Sunnyside Drive, Quezon City, near St. Luke's Hospital. The play was "Walang Himala," written by Rene Villanueva, Liza Magtoto and Janneke Agustin. It premiered last Saturday to an audience that included Cory Aquino and some of the members of her former Cabinet. They were not there by accident. They were invited there because the play dealt in part with the dreams of Edsa.

But only in part. The play deals with the more general state of this beautiful and wretched country and how at one point the dazzling event that was Edsa offered the hope of salvation, freedom, a better life, however people then chose to think of it. It deals as much with failed dreams as realized ones, as much with escapes as discoveries. The title "Walang Himala," of course, refers to the concept of Edsa as a miracle, not just in the sense of something that took place against all expectation but in the sense of a liberation from all oppression. There are no instant cures, the title suggests. But oddly enough, though it says that, the play, well, miraculously leaves you feeling hopeful.

The play has no single story line; what it has is a single theme. It brings together several strands, or the stories of several people who dreamed the dream of Edsa. There's the *katutubo* who learns to fight rather than depend quite literally on his stars to stop being an underling. There's the fellow from Mindoro who once gazed in awe at the wonder of Edsa but is eventually forced to leave for Italy to fend for his family. He becomes the victim of his own success, exchanging food for soul, breaking his family up in the course of trying to keep it together. There's the activist couple who fled to China before martial law and came back to the Philippines after Edsa, fired up by its possibilities. The wife eventually discovers that more deeply liberating than the liberation of society is the liberation of self: from being a comrade, a helping hand, a nurse to her husband, she realizes she is her own person, too. And so on.

And there are their children, a seemingly lost generation not knowing what happened in the past or caring to. They find themselves at Edsa II having to go through the struggle—or being doomed to repeat history?—all over again.

I like several things about the play. First off, I like the theme. The questions—"What happened to Edsa?" "How did we fall this low after soaring that high?"—most of us have asked at one time or another. Our answers, if we have given them at all, we have framed largely in political terms. For understandable reasons, particularly given these days when we find ourselves thrown back to the days before Edsa, fighting a dictatorship all over again. One wrought richly ironically—the stuff of which drama is made, notably of the Greek-tragedy variety—by a beneficiary of another Edsa. But it's also nice to see the answers take on the form of the unraveling of human lives, or how the dreams of Edsa have unfolded for people personally. The answers, you find out, are many and varied, sorrowful and joyous, despairing and triumphant.

I like the sensibility as well. It's fairly modern, and one the MTV generation in particular (to whom this play is best pitched) will be at home with. The storytelling isn't linear, it's jagged—the kind of jaggedness you'll find for example in Paul Anderson's "Magnolia," Paul Haggis' "Crash" or any of Quentin Tarantino's movies, where characters flit in and out, connected plot-wise to each other often only tangentially but each one contributing to telling a story bigger than themselves. The storytelling may be a little alien, or alienating, to an older generation (I kept wondering how the one last Saturday found it) but shouldn't be so to today's youth.

I like the tone. It blends myth and history (it's right there at the start in the conversation between Bernardo Carpio and Jose Rizal, the mythical savior of the Tagalogs and the historical liberator of the Filipinos), humor and pathos, flute and stars and cars and MTV. The scenes bounce off and build on each other, as in the comic one where the cops and the thief's mother talk of jail and punishment and the lyrical one where the *katutubos* talk of not having any words for crime and prison.

And I like the acting. Joy Soler is back after a hiatus of ages, and she's a joy to behold.

Not everything succeeds in the play however. It's nice to have many strands, which make for richness of tapestry, but you've also got to be a very good weaver to weave those things together. The threads don't always seem to mesh here. I thought the first part was full of possibility that the second part would explore more fully and put closure to. I don't expect neat closure—art, like life, doesn't always lend itself to that. But some parts went in rather stereotypical directions, as in the *balikbayan* who ended up in a "balikbayan box," or coffin. And the sum of the parts seemed smaller rather than bigger than the whole. Enough to make you feel somewhat *bitin* or unfulfilled—not unlike the feeling Edsa itself leaves you with.

But its merits far outweigh its flaws. Do watch it—it runs I think for several weekends more. Whether young or old (concepts that as you grow older tend to be as elusive as Edsa itself), you will come away from it with much to ponder. You might even find your increasingly despairing soul replenished by hope—not the easy kind that comes from piety or platitude but the kind that comes from having glimpsed a truth or two from the tangle of life.

Miracles have always been tricky business. You find them where you least expect them.

Arroyo hit men make farce of Melo Commission

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE ARROYO ADMINISTRATION HAS launched a spurious peace offensive to blunt mounting international pressure to stem the wave of extrajudicial killings, which has claimed the lives of at least 114 political activists since 2001, by creating an "independent" commission of inquiry into the executions headed by former Supreme Court Justice Jose Melo.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said she created the commission to demonstrate "my determination to stop extrajudicial killings." The commission would be "powerful, credible and fully independent, setting its own rules and timetable," she added.

The circumstances in which she announced the creation of the commission hardly reassured anyone that the inquiry would end the killings and succeed in bringing to justice those responsible for the carnage. These gave the inquiry the trimmings of an international PR exercise designed to give the government a "human face" amid unabated butchery by death squads on the loose and the damning and deafening indictment by a number of foreign governments, the European Union, the papal nuncio and international human rights organizations.

Amnesty International cogently summed up the case against the Arroyo administration in its report last Aug. 15, accusing the government of failing "to fulfill its obligation to protect the right to life of every individual under its jurisdiction … regardless of the political affiliation of those targeted, and whether or not security personnel are linked to attacks."

The report hit the nail on the head when it said: "No one deserves to die for his political affiliation … It should be a deep embarrassment to the government that people in the Philippines cannot freely exercise their rights of political expression and association." Amnesty was referring to the fact that most of the victims were members of legal leftist organizations and journalists. It noted that the "number of killings in the Philippines are increasing for a second year, with at least 51 killings in the first six months of 2006 compared to 66 … in the whole of 2005."

The President appeared to have been stung by this indictment when she formed the Melo Commission. In one of its recommendations, Amnesty urged the government to avail itself of relevant United Nations mechanism by inviting representatives of UN human rights institutions as well as those from other human rights organizations to conduct independent inquiries. Rather than follow this recommendation, the President formed her own "independent" commission, a gesture that did very little to inspire confidence that she had the political will to get to the bottom of the killings. The commission is less than a half-way measure that only heightens growing international skepticism over whether she has the capacity to end the killings or she means business.

The President's announcement sounded even more hollow when she made it on the eve of the death anniversary of former Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr., to give her gesture a symbolic veneer that she is determined to provide justice to her own people. Amnesty underlined the emptiness of the gesture when it pointed out that "stemming this tide of killings requires genuine political will to ensure prosecution in all cases—not only the 10 cases in 10 weeks recently called for by President Arroyo."

The laughable record of prosecutions was underlined by the Amnesty report which said that of the 114 killings recorded since 2001 by Task Force Usig, "the police have [made] arrests in just three cases and no convictions have been reported."

The Melo Commission enters the picture in a climate of impunity that gives incentives to further killings. The Amnesty report said that it was gravely concerned that "members of the security forces may have been involved in the killings, or else have tolerated, acquiesced to, or been complicit in it."

The killings were set in the context of the "all-out war" being waged by the government against communist rebels and pronouncements of Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan and National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales condemning legal organizations as "communist legal fronts," as well as of Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez who said the killings were "necessary collateral damage" in the war on insurgency.

The pronouncements of these hit men of the President vitiate her claim that she was determined to end the killings. Palparan has already decided that leftists are responsible for the killings. It is Gonzalez's duty to ensure that justice is given to every citizen. Having already made up his mind that the government forces are not responsible, the justice department, as the prosecution arm of the government, has put blinders on its eyes in the search for the killers. The pronouncements of these men send a clear signal to those responsible—whether or not they are government security forces—that they can go ahead with the killings and need not fear prosecution.

While these men remain in their posts, nobody will ever believe the President's promise to end the killings. Sacking them could send a more powerful message that the President means business than giving us the farce of a commission on inquiry.

Terrorism and counter-terrorism reconsidered

WORLD VIEW

Richard N. Haass

THE ARRESTS IN LONDON OF 21 TERRORISTS who appear to have planned to blow up a number of airplanes over the Atlantic reminds us of the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington of Sept. 11, 2001. 9/11 remains the date that has come to signify modern terrorism in all of its terrible capacity to cause death and destruction. Five years may be too short a period for historians to judge the full significance of the event, but it does offer an opportunity to take stock.

At best, it is a mixed record. Terrorist attacks have occurred subsequently in Indonesia, Madrid, London, Egypt, and most recently Mumbai. Thousands of innocent men, women and children have been killed. There is also the steady drumbeat of terrorist violence in Iraq—violence that risks pushing the country into full-scale civil war.

But the terrorists still have not done anything on the scale of 9/11. The reason for this is worth thinking about. It may reflect the ouster of the government of Afghanistan and the elimination of al-Qaida's safe haven there. Improved and better coordinated intelligence, law enforcement and homeland security efforts at both the national and international levels have made it more difficult for terrorists to succeed. And as the arrests in London suggest, it is also possible that the desire of some terrorists to accomplish something more dramatic than the 9/11 attacks may have complicated their ability to implement their plans and increased the prospect that they will be detected.

None of this should make anyone sanguine. Globalization makes it easier for terrorists to acquire the tools of their trade and to move about. The odds also favor terrorists, in that one success can compensate for multiple failures. Modern technology, possibly including weapons of mass destruction, increases the possibility that any terrorist success will cause damage of great magnitude. In addition, Iraq is producing a new generation of experienced terrorists along the lines that Afghanistan did two decades ago.

So what needs doing? One answer put forward by the Bush administration is to promote democracy. The thinking is that young men and women will be less likely to become terrorists if they are members of societies that provide them with political and economic opportunities to live meaningful and satisfying lives.

Unfortunately, the evidence does not support this. Individuals growing up in mature democracies such as the United Kingdom can still become alienated and radicalized. A more democratic Iraq has become a more violent Iraq. Similarly, elections in Palestine did not persuade Hamas to turn its back on violence any more than elections in Lebanon dissuaded Hezbollah from initiating the current crisis in the Middle East.

Moreover, even if democracy were the answer, it is extraordinarily difficult to bring about, as Iraq shows. Building a true democracy (as opposed to simply holding elections) is an enterprise that requires decades or even generations.

What is more, democracy is irrelevant to those who are already committed terrorists. Their goals of recreating some 7th-century caliphate or, in the case of Iraq, restoring Sunni domination are unlikely to be satisfied by free men and women openly choosing their political system and leadership.

So what, then, needs doing? The first thing to do is to drop the metaphor of a "war on terrorism." Wars are mostly fought with arms on battlefields between soldiers of opposing countries. Wars have beginnings and ends. None of these characteristics apply here.

Terrorism can now be carried out with box-cutters and airplanes as easily as with explosives. Office buildings and commuter trains and coffee shops are today's battlefields. There are no uniforms, and often those doing the killing are acting in the name of causes or movements. And there is no end in sight. To the contrary, terrorism is now part of the fabric of contemporary life.

There is another reason to jettison the martial vocabulary. Terrorism cannot be defeated by arms alone. Indeed, other instruments of policy, including intelligence, police work and diplomacy, are likely to play a larger part in any effective policy.

Second, it is essential to distinguish between existing and potential terrorists. Existing terrorists need to be stopped before they act; failing that, societies need to protect themselves and have ready the means of reducing the consequences of successful attacks.

But much more than that can—and should—be done to persuade young men and women not to become terrorists in the first place. The aim must be to create an environment in which terrorism is seen as neither acceptable nor necessary.

Terrorism must be stripped of its legitimacy; those carrying it out must be shamed. No political cause justifies the taking of innocent life. Arab and Muslim leaders need to make this clear, be it in public pronouncements by politicians, lectures by teachers, or fatwas by leading clerics.

But terrorism also needs to be stripped of its motivation. This translates into the United States and others spelling out the gains Palestinians can expect in a peace agreement with Israel and what Sunnis and Shia can reasonably expect in Iraq's new political order. Bringing about a lasting ceasefire in Lebanon will also help calm the emotions that will lead some to become terrorists and others to tolerate or support them.

The way ahead is clear: vigilance against violence coupled with political possibility. Such a counter-terrorism policy will not eliminate the scourge of terrorism any more than modern medicine can eliminate disease. But it does hold out the promise of reducing it to a scale that will not threaten the openness, security, or prosperity of modern societies. *Project Syndicate*

Richard N. Haass is president of the Council on Foreign Relations and author of "The Opportunity: America's Moment to Alter History's Course."

About the Elizaldes

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

MY COLUMN ON TANDUAY LAST AUG. 9 WAS an exercise in putting strands of useless information together and weaving them into a story. The end product sounded like a PR pitch for Lucio Tan and Tanduay, but the e-mail response was encouraging and it made me realize that I had only scratched the tip of the iceberg that is the Elizaldes and their place in the larger canvass that is the economic history of the Philippines. There is an interest in other areas of our history aside from heroes and the 1896 Revolution.

Ben Arcinas sent an e-mail full of information and it is hoped that another historian will undertake an oral history. He gave his background and narrated:

"I worked in Elizalde & Co. Inc. since 1951, retiring in late 1985, the year before Don Manolo died. When I left, I was corporate secretary of several subsidiaries and assistant corporate secretary of Elizalde proper. Shortly before I left, I was one of the directors of the parent company which began to be controlled by Manda Elizalde. Not being trained in [history], I would not know how to start and proceed with additional research into material and persons still available but slowly being lost.

"About your reference to the Tanduay Hagonoy distillery: A latter-day incident involving that property reminded me of our early discovery that the Elizalde talent in commerce and industry was not as keen as their regard for real property. In the early 1950s while I was in the legal department, a PTA delegation came to us to inquire about and request the donation to the organization of a company property in Hagonoy. The delegation had come from the subsidiary, Tanduay Distillery Inc., but its management was clueless and so they were referred to legal. Our department had never heard of any Elizalde property in the province of Bulacan although there were several in just as many other provinces. So we referred them to the official who kept the archives. At that same time, Valentin Teus (the son of the Valentin in your article) was one of Don Manolo's advisers as well as a relative.

"I never found out how that incident ended and if the PTA people, who knew that title was still to be transferred, were able to get the donation for their organization. But it fortified the idea that Don Manolo's generation was not too concerned about their land holdings; we were hearing then of some company lands in the Bicol area (then source of abaca for Elizalde Rope Factory Inc. before the latter turned to Leyte, Davao and Jolo) were taken over and titled for themselves by some *administradores*."

More interesting to me was Los Tamaraos Subdivision in Parañaque where some friends now live:

"The story went that polo-playing Don Manolo and brothers were members of Manila Polo Club, which was at that time 'for whites only.' Don Joaquin, then primus inter pares, took along a Filipino friend (I am not sure if it was Jorge Vargas, Quezon's executive secretary) but was not allowed in deference to the rule. In anger, the Elizaldes showed their disapproval and organized their own Los Tamaraos. Some years later when that generation no longer played polo and the next was interested in tennis and swimming, the Elizaldes nonchalantly alienated the whole area.

"Another example is the Elizalde lumbang plantation in Gingoog which supplied the Elizalde Paint & Oil Factory with oil for paints, floor wax, etc. (lumbang was considered superior to linseed for the tropics). It was abandoned just like that, the company preferring to get its nuts from Cavite's and Nasipit's forest concessions.

"I wish the story of the Elizalde commercial empire started by Ynchausti (thus YCO) from the early 1800s to about a decade ago could indeed be told as part of our economic history. For it cannot be denied that the *casa solariega* built by the humble beginners from the tiny village of Irurita in the province (formerly kingdom) of Navarra in the foothills of the Pyrenees was for a time the mainstay of our country's economy and the strongest support of President Quezon's social justice program. For example, in the 1930s Quezon reportedly wanted to make points in the labor and social field (there were the Sakdalistas and other similar movements) and so he urged the Elizaldes to grant Christmas bonus to employees as a regular gift. Ironically, from its original concept as a matter of liberality on the part of the employer, a later decision of the Court of Industrial Relations ordered an Elizalde subsidiary, Samar Mining Co. to extend the benefit as an obligation. But this is another story.

"In the sugar industry, the first ever collective bargaining agreement with *sacadas* was signed by Don Manolo with the Nacusip under Zoilo de la Cruz and witnessed by Bishop Antonio Fortich. If you recall, Don Joaquin Miguel 'Mike,' older brother of Don Manolo, was Quezon's first resident commissioner and then ambassador to Washington. This turned out to be a supreme sacrifice for Don Joaquin as he had to use up his shares in the companies to help the newly independent nation support the position and the country's representation in the US."

So many stories, so much history waiting to be written down. If I had nine lives, I would spend them all as a historian of the Philippines.

***

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Different

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

THE SUPERLATIVES WERE PROFUSE FOR THE TWO BAbies: pretty, precious, adorable, lovely. Missing my own Yna after almost two weeks of separation, I had to chime in as well, almost tempted to ask the proud parents for permission to carry the infants.

The elevators in the Toronto hotel where I was staying were running slow that day, so a small crowd eventually gathered around the couple and their babies. One was pushing a carriage with a sleeping baby inside, while the other one was carrying, with admirable aplomb, a baby in one arm and a baby bag in the other, overflowing with children's stuff.

From the first time I saw them, I knew the babies were adopted. The giveaway was that the two had, well, two daddies, a gay couple.

Normalized

Scenes like that are actually becoming more common in many parts of the world. Even in the Philippines, gay men and lesbians have been adopting children for the longest time ever, often informally, and more often as single parents. I know a gay physician whose lover died suddenly almost 20 years ago, leaving behind a wife and two children. The doctor took them all in, and raised the two children as his own, sending them to one of the best schools in Manila.

Gay couples raising children are more of a recent phenomenon, partly because homosexuality has been such an underground affair, making it difficult for two men, or two women, to build a stable relationship. Now that societies are more accepting, we're seeing more of long-term couples, including many who now want legal reforms to adopt children as couples, and to have their relationships recognized as civil unions.

All these developments upset some conservatives. I'm saying "some" because many conservatives actually welcome these developments. On Canadian TV the other night, there were two Baptist ministers, a man and his wife, being interviewed. The woman minister was totally in favor of gay marriages, arguing that a loving relationship should be blessed, whether it involves a man and a woman, or two men, or two women. Her husband used Scriptural passages to argue that homosexuality is wrong, but conceded that gay couples are as capable of loving relationships as heterosexual couples. These conservatives at least see the potentials for family values in gay relationships.

But others are not as open, and vehemently oppose legal adoption and legal marriages for same-sex couples, and the fear here is that such legal developments will "normalize" what they feel is immoral and abnormal.

I can understand those fears, seeing how that scene in the elevator will linger in people's minds and will be the topic of many conversations: "Oh, guess who I ran into at the elevator."

Natural

Yet when you think about it, what the moralists fear most is that people will see that gay men and lesbians are, well, as loving and nurturing as straight people.

After all, adopted children are often much more loved than "natural" children. The unwanted child becomes wanted, almost with a vengeance, often given a much better life than he or she would have had with the natural parents. Gay couples are also known, both in the West and here in the Philippines, to tend to take special children, those who are differently abled, or with developmental difficulties.

I suspect that facing so much social discrimination and hatred, gay people tend to latch on more quickly to the "underdog" child, and many will work miracles to bring out the child's full potentials.

'Diprensiya'

I've wondered about how the moralists deal with their own gay and lesbian relatives. It's inevitable, every clan has its own share of "suspects." The hard-liners simply cut ties with these queer relatives but others will grudgingly move toward patronizing tolerance. Who, after all, keeps the ever sacred family running? Who do you run to when you need money? Who volunteers, or is volunteered to care for the young, the sick, the disabled? Who else but the *bakla* brother, the *tomboy* sister?

And who cares for the elderly parents? A friend of mine told me once about a young mother who had been fretting about an "effeminate" son, worrying that the child would grow up to be gay. This elderly woman, whose gay son pampers her like no other, advised the young mother: "Now wouldn't you be so lucky if he turned out gay?"

Many lesbian and gay children are committed to caring for their parents, but many too want to have children of their own, and not necessarily by marrying someone of the opposite sex. Is society fair to deny legal parenting status?

Alongside that move toward parenting, many gay men and lesbians struggle to sustain long-term personal relationships. Again, is society fair to deny same-sex couples certain rights? To give just one example, in many countries, including the Philippines, a gay man or lesbian cannot sign consent forms for emergency procedures or surgery for a same-sex partner. Yet, without any kind of legal rights associated with marriage, gay men and lesbians will find ways to stay by the side of a partner, caring for them through sickness and health, and, mind you, even death will not do these couples part.

Homophobia, the fear of homosexuality, grows on ignorance. When gay men and lesbians accede to social pressures and remain in the shadows, they are agreeing to perpetuate the ignorance and bigotry.

There is tremendous pressure to conform in the Philippines. The Spanish word "*diferencia*" only means difference, but it somehow mutated to the Filipino "*diprensya*," to mean "defect." The Spanish word for "defect" is "*defecto*" so really, in the Philippines, to be different is to be defective. Put another way, the discrimination against gay men is based on the idea that a man acting like the "weaker sex" must be "defective," as is the case for lesbians daring to be so "masculine."

The two men I met at that Toronto hotel were effeminate, the type many would want to make invisible. And yet I challenge anyone to tell me they are "weak" and "abnormal," as with the millions of other lesbians and gay men who choose to devote their lives to children not their own, to parents too old and weak for "normal" siblings to handle.

Traditionally, gay men and lesbians have drifted to the caring professions partly because that's what society assigns, with stern admonitions to be "respectable" and not to "practice" homosexuality. Times do change and these days, more people are ready to say: "I'm here to serve, but I want you to know I'm different and I'm proud of it."

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Pathetic views from a former SC justice

THIS IS IN REFERENCE TO THE Aug. 12 column of Isagani Cruz.

I find it pathetic that no less than a former Supreme Court justice had to validate the masculinity of his sons—"all machos"—by telling INQUIRER readers how a "pansy would have been mauled in the school where my five sons (all machos) studied during the '70s when all the students were certifiably masculine." Is there something wrong with any of his sons that he should strive to show off such "courage"?

It seems, too, that after he retired from law practice, Cruz has forgotten that his duty—as a citizen of this country and authority of the law—is to protect the human rights of all people, regardless of sex, religion or social standing, not to promote the mauling, degradation and derision of those whose sexual orientation is different from his.

Must we pardon his writings—neo-Nazi and shamelessly racist in feel and intensity—just because he might have had a senile lapse, thus revealing to us that he isn't, after all, fair and just in his treatment of victims of prejudice and discrimination?

It is not a good sign for this newspaper to give his slurs and endorsement of violence against gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender and intersex people. With or without the passage of an anti-discrimination law, we think that there is a liability somewhere—the promotion of hate crimes is at the very least unbecoming of supposedly credible columnists.

It is time, indeed, to demand an apology from Cruz and his kind. It might be that they are themselves not sure of what they are, and that they fall under the category which some LGBT organizations call "questioning" because their "gender self-identity" needs to be provoked and defined by people outside of themselves.

To quote the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights' Louise Arbour:

"Neither the existence of national laws, nor the prevalence of custom can ever justify the abuse, attacks, torture and indeed killings that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons are subjected to because of who they are or are perceived to be. Violence against LGBT persons is frequently unreported, undocumented and goes ultimately unpunished. This shameful silence is the ultimate rejection of the fundamental principle of the universality of human rights.

"Impunity for crimes of violence against LGBT persons suggests that, in many societies, they are seen as less deserving of the protection of law. In the face of that reality, the responsibility of the State to extend effective protection is, if anything, heightened. Excluding LGBT individuals from these protections clearly violates international human rights law as well as the common standards of humanity that define us all."

I do hope that legislators, justices, columnists and their sons, will take careful note of these pronouncements.

—ANNA LEAH SARABIA,
executive director,
Women's Media Circle
Foundation Inc.

Majority of Muslims do not want abolition of autonomous Mindanao

I AM TOTALLY DISmayed by my Muslim brother Abosuod Balpakki Musawi's call for the abolition of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. (PDI, 8/9/06)

As a good Muslim, I expected every Muslim to support the creation of the ARMM, its leaderships and its programs. The ARMM's creation was meant to give its neglected inhabitants the same opportunities as those open to Christian Filipinos—the blessings of democracy, peace, justice, equality and posterity.

Admittedly, the past and present leadership of the ARMM had their own weaknesses, just like any.

But I beg to disagree with Musawi that Muslims residing in the ARMM are calling for the abolition of the ARMM. On the contrary, during the recent plebiscite, the majority of Muslims in the ARMM voted to expand its coverage area.

I do not agree either, that the ARMM government and its officials have been ineffective from the time the ARMM was established and that they have been effective only in graft and corruption. The assessment is totally wrong and unfair.

Musawi should open his eyes. He should compare Muslim Mindanao before and after the ARMM's creation and he will see the huge difference in terms of infrastructure and development and in the delivery of personal services to its inhabitants.

I am also inviting Musawi to see the ARMM under the strong and effective leadership of Gov. Zaldy Uy Ampatuan. In spite of limited funding, the governor has implemented various development projects and service delivery programs for the benefit of the people. This is the kind of governance that the present leadership is doing.

Musawi should not belittle his Muslim brothers. He should not make the sweeping statement that the past and present leaders of the ARMM have been corrupt, elected only because of funding and support from the national government. That is not true and just a figment of his fertile imagination.

Lastly, as a Muslim, I am appealing to all fellow Muslims to unite and support the ARMM and its present and future leaders and show to the whole world that we are united and strong. Let us set aside crab mentality. The national government, our Christian brothers and the Muslim world will respect us if we are united and strong.

—ROCKMAN O. SAMPULNA,
4 Soledad St.,
Kimpo Subdivision,
Cotabato City

SSS policy on claims meant to prevent fraud

THIS IS IN REFERENCE TO THE LETTER OF Ruperto Talan (PDI, 8/12/06) complaining that the Social Security System is denying the disability claims of members whose SSS files have discrepancies.

Under SSS policies, a birth or baptismal certificate is required if there is a striking discrepancy in a claimant's records. This policy is aimed to prevent fraud and ensure that benefits are paid to the rightful member.

This policy has been in effect since 1991. It was intended to cut delays in the processing of benefit claims due to inaccurate information submitted to the SSS.

Through the years, the SSS has liberalized this policy by allowing a member to submit any of two secondary documents in lieu of the birth or baptismal certificate. These include records of employment/employer identification, GSIS member record, certificate from the National Archives, alien certificate of registration, birth/baptismal certificate of children, marriage contract, driver's license, school records or voter's ID card, joint affidavit of two disinterested parties attesting to the correct name and/or fact of birth of the person concerned. Filing a petition with the Social Security Commission is a last resort.

For prospective members who cannot present the necessary documents, they are issued a temporary SSS number. But they are instructed to submit the documents before they avail themselves of benefits or loan privileges.

While it is true that the SSS is mandated to promote social justice and provide meaningful protection to members and their beneficiaries, the SSS also has a fiduciary role to fulfill. It has to protect the viability of the fund by instituting mechanisms as provided for in the Social Security Law.

The SSS respects the views and sentiments of Talan. But we cannot sacrifice the security of the SSS fund in the name of leniency and compassion.

—JOEL P. PALACIOS,
assistant vice president,
Media Affairs Department,
Social Security System,
East Avenue, Quezon City

Cruelty to animals and other crimes

THANKS TO MICHAEL TAN FOR HIS column on the link between violence against animals and the disintegration of a civilized society. ("Kindness," PDI, 8/9/06)

Cruelty to animals is a serious issue. The American Psychiatric Association identifies crimes against animals as one of the diagnostic criteria for conduct disorders, and the US Federal Bureau of Investigation uses reports of these crimes in analyzing the threat potentials of suspected and known criminals. Experts agree that it matters little whether the one being abused is a cow, a cat, or a child; it is a person's behavior of abusing any living being that is a concern.

We hope that the Philippines will remain a place that people can be proud to visit and to live in, even without the invitation of glamorous tourism campaigns. For more information about the link between cruelty to animals and violence against humans, see http://www.HelpingAnimals.com.

—JASON BAKER,
director,
People for the Ethical
Treatment of Animals (Peta) Asia-Pacific,
JasonB@petaasiapacific.org

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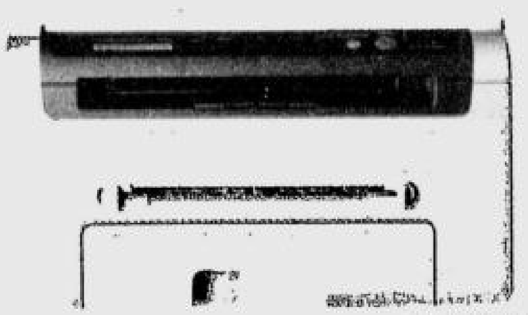

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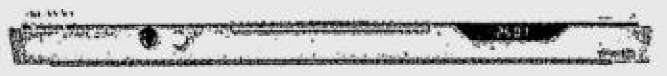

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INQUIRER *Northern Luzon*

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Editor **Jun Bandayrel**
Bureau Chief **Rolando B. Fernandez**

Experts fear extinction of indigenous crops

By Delmar Cariño
La Trinidad, Benguet

THE CONTINUING LOSS OF diversity in agriculture has alarmed agronomists at the Benguet State University who said it was about time to press the panic button and address the possible extinction of indigenous crops.

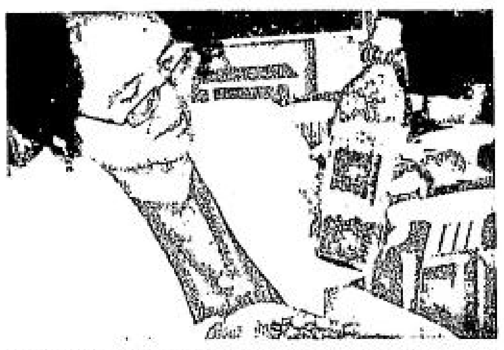
The culprit, they said, was the introduction of new high-yielding plant varieties that were meant for mass production spurred by the promise of a strong market.

"The trend is for farmers to commercialize more cash crops," said Dr. Macario Cadatal, dean of the BSU College of Agriculture. "And with globalization demanding the use of modern varieties, production patterns are being groomed for the bank."

This development has threatened to wipe out "indigenous agronomic crops" that have the distinct ability of enriching soil fertility and enhancing biodiversity, Cadatal said.

The BSU's latest research has shown that Benguet and the rest of the Cordillera are rich in traditional rice varieties and indigenous legumes that are rich sources of food nutrients, aside from being more scientifically adapted to soil production.

Dr. Belinda Tad-awan, an agronomist, said modern varieties had proven to be a hindrance to the preservation and conservation of local rice and indigenous legumes since their germplasm (genetic material that carries the inherited characteristics of an organism) pool was dwindling fast.


DR. BELINDA Tad-awan examines indigenous legumes for multiplication. DELMAR CARIÑO

Under threat of vanishing are local rice varieties, called "rice landraces," such as *kintuman*, *bangkitan*, *kabal*, *butalga* and *makaninging*, she said.

The threatened legumes are the *cardish* (pigeon pea), rice bean (*agayap*), snap beans (*lubias*), lima bean (*patani*), string beans (*utong*) and mung bean (*mungo*).

"These varieties diversify the cropping system because they are raised in swidden farms, home gardens and backyard plantations. They are also often intercropped with other common plants," Tad-awan said.

For indigenous rice varieties, people still patronize them because of their aroma and good quality, she said.

Tad-awan's research on indigenous legumes was awarded the best in biodiversity during the International Conference on Biotechnology held in Baguio City recently.

She shared the recognition with Danilo Padua, Grace Calama, Florence Sagayo, Esther Josephine Sagaila, Guerzon Payangdo, Estela Badol and Janice Ignacio, all agronomists.

The group's research led to the establishment of a germplasm and seed propagation bank of local rice and legumes at the BSU for farmers who still find pleasure planting the traditional crops.

Their project led to the collection of 90 "rice landraces" and more than 52 indigenous legumes from 10 towns in Benguet.

The collections are now being maintained at the BSU under laboratory conditions.

"Indigenous legumes are adaptable to hostile environment. They are also disease- and drought-resistant and thrive even under poor soil conditions," Tad-awan said.

But modern plant varieties are making them irrelevant and ignored since, she said, they were raised more for domestic consumption rather than for commercial endeavors.

"But their genes are in danger," she said.

Doc's mission: Giving people 'right to smile'

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Dagupan City

SMILING IS A GIFT THAT MOST people take for granted. But this gift is elusive to some people born with harelip and cleft palate.

Knowing how these congenital physical defects can strike the confidence of those affected, a doctor in Dagupan City has made it his mission to give them the "right to smile."

"It really pains me to see people, especially children, who cannot smile and suffer from terrible inferiority complex because they are born with harelip or cleft palate," said Dr. Jesus Canto, chief of the Region I Medical Center (RIMC) in Dagupan.

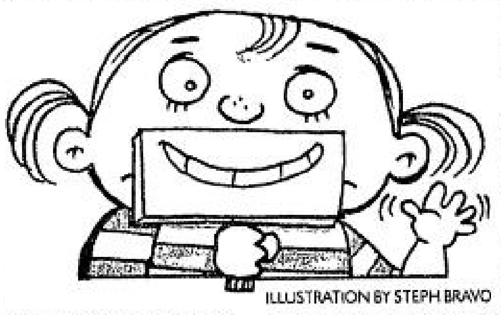


ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

He said he saw how such physical flaws affected the self-esteem of his niece, who was born with a harelip. "She refused to deal with people, even our relatives."

Canto performed surgery on his niece so she could develop her sense of worth.

After that experience, Canto, a grandfather of 23, felt it was his "calling" to help those affected by harelip and cleft palate. Through surgery, he also wanted to heal them emotionally.

Free surgery

Canto spearheaded a project to conduct free surgery on people suffering from harelip and cleft palate when he was president of the Pangasinan Medical Society in 1989. He continued this pursuit during his stint as lieutenant governor of the Kiwanis International.

When he became the hospital chief of the RIMC, Canto launched a program that offers free surgery to all people, young and old, suffering from harelip and cleft palate.

"I think I have practically [operated on] all harelip and cleft palate patients in the fourth district," he said. The RIMC is in Dagupan, which is part of Pangasinan's fourth congressional district.

He cannot recall anymore how many patients he has helped undergo the medical procedure for free. "More than a hundred, I lost count," he said.

Most of the patients belong to poor families who cannot afford the hospital expenses of P6,500 for harelip and P15,000 for cleft palate.

Canto said the oldest patient who underwent the corrective surgery was a 35-year-old man from Malasiqui, Pangasinan, and the youngest was a 2-week old baby girl.

While a patient for the surgery must be at least 6 months old, he said doctors had to make exemption for the baby because she was suffering from an infection caused by the physical defect.

Obsession

This "obsession" to clear the province of harelip and cleft palate patients has put him in funny situations.

For instance, while he was seeking out patients in other towns in Pangasinan, he never saw a young man with harelip who was right under his very nose.

"A friend who came for a visit saw one of the vendors at the hospital gate with a harelip. He told me I was looking too far that I did not see the man at the gate," Canto said.

Right then, he walked to the gate and scheduled the vendor for surgery.

Another time, he was hearing Mass at the Our Lady of Manaoag Shrine when he saw a 17-year-old boy at the church.

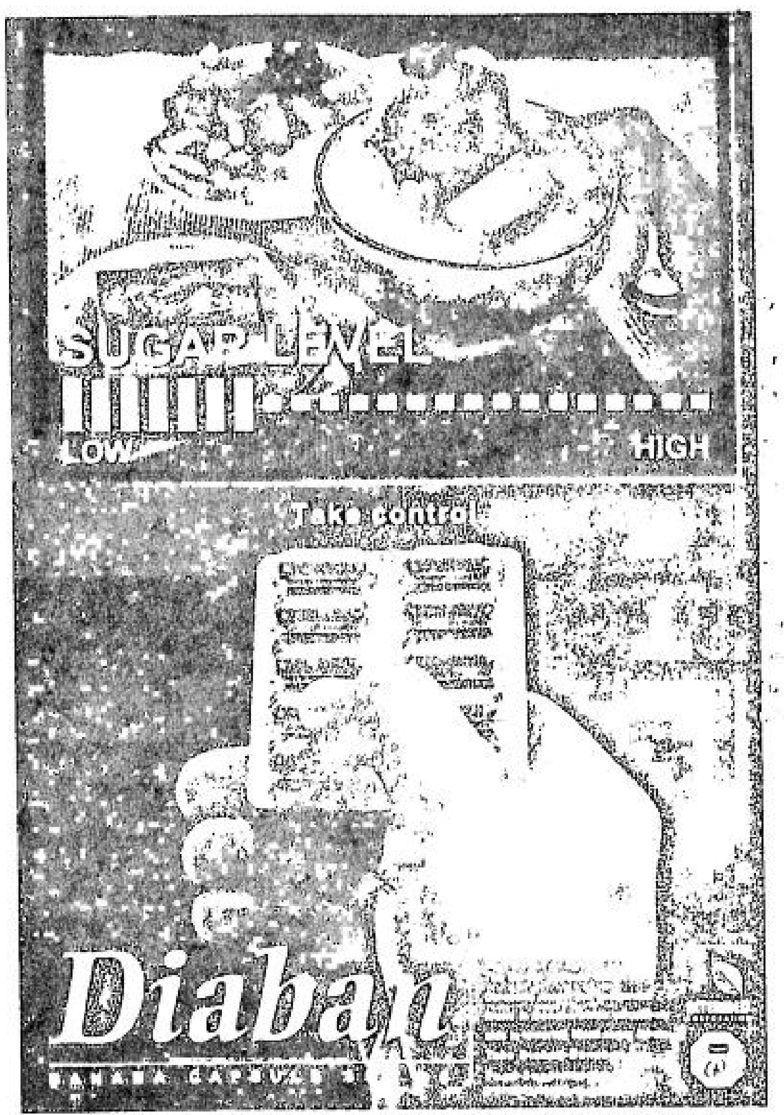
"I waited for him outside and told him to see me at the hospital," he said.

The assistance does not stop with the surgery. The patients undergo speech development sessions at the Stimulation and Therapeutic Activity Center (STAC) managed by the city government and the Breaking Barrier for Children, a nongovernment organization.

Most of the patients learned of the free medical services through Canto's "Text-a-Doctor" project designed to give poor patients access to medical services.

Canto also uses local radio stations to spread information on his project and seek out patients.

"I'm even contemplating on giving incentives to people who can bring persons with harelip and cleft palate to me," he said.



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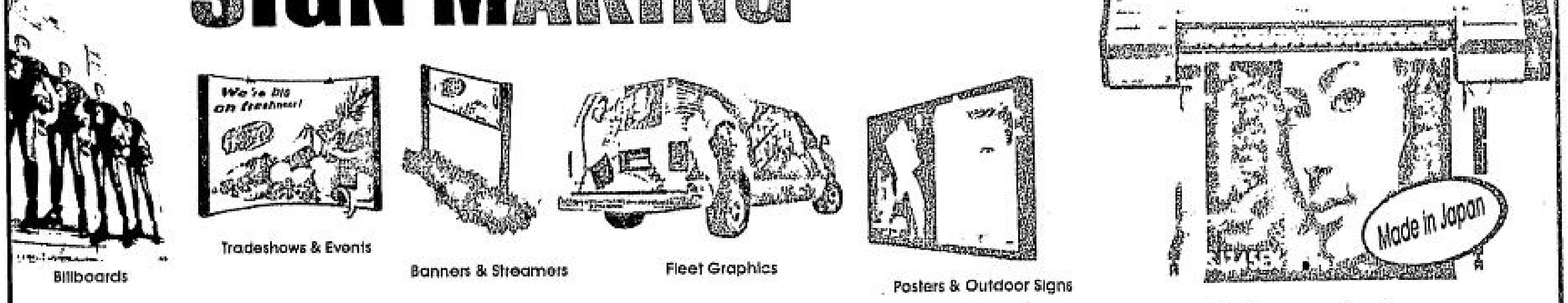

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Chavit relative OKd Poro port deal

DAGUPAN CITY—THE OPERATOR OF THE PORO Point seaport insisted there was no legal basis to rescind its contract to run the port and said the deal was signed in 1999 by a relative of Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, who is now campaigning to have the contract rescinded.

SINGSON

ROJAS

Lawyer Brigido Dulay, counsel of the PPIC, said the opinion of the Department of Justice and the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel upholding the validity of the contract still stands.

"If there's any resolution (to the contrary), it should be made through the legal processes and we, as a company, will honor and abide by the decision. The issue is there is a contract and no court order nullifying the contract. Thus, it is valid and binding," he said.

Dulay said Rogelio Singson, former chair of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) and a relative of Chavit, was the one who signed the contract on behalf of the BCDA in 1999.

He added that when the BCDA and BHI signed the Poro Point deal, the Ilocos Sur governor was still an ally of former President Joseph Estrada.

Dulay said Rogelio Singson was reappointed to the BCDA post when President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo assumed power in 2001. Chavit had moved over to the Arroyo camp by then, Dulay said.

The PPIC counsel said Rogelio Singson was instrumental "in obtaining three stringent reviews of the BCDA-BHI agreement by the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC)."

All three reviews by the OGCC during Rogelio Singson's time upheld the validity and legality of the BCDA-BHI agreement, Dulay said.

The deal called for a joint venture corporation which will operate the seaport over a period of 25 years. PPIC became the joint venture company which included BCDA subsidiary Poro Point Management Corporation (PPMC).

Rogelio Singson had the agreement pass through OGCC scrutiny not just once but thrice, Dulay said. "This means the agreement is standing on solid ground since it was upheld by the OGCC three times," he said in a statement.

Rogelio Singson was relieved in 2002 and was replaced as BCDA chair by another relative of Chavit, Florencio Padernal. The current chair of the BCDA, Filadelfo Singson Rojas, is also a relative of Chavit.

Earlier, Dulay appealed to current OGCC head Agnes Devanadera "to respect the three previous opinions of her agency upholding the validity of the BCDA-BHI agreement."

Dulay aired the appeal to Devanadera in the wake of reports that Devanadera was preparing a reversal of the three previous OGCC legal studies. Dulay said a reversal "would seriously damage the credibility of the government before the local and international investor communities." *Yolanda Fuertes, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

'Ninoy' bills without FVR name rejected in Vizcaya

SOLANO, NUEVA VIZCAYA—AS the country commemorated Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. Day on Monday, confusion was sweeping through the business community here over the circulation of P500 bills that were refused by stores due to the missing names of the signatories on the notes.

Residents complained of the refusal of some stores here to accept the P500 bills that did not bear the printed names of former President Fidel Ramos and former Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Gov. Gabriel Singson.

Store owners were apparently exercising caution over the bills, after two men, who were carrying fake P500 and P1,000 bills, were arrested in Aritao town on Monday.

Cheryl Leal, 22, said a grocery store here refused the P500 bill that she was supposed to use as payment for about P200 worth of goods she bought from the establishment on Monday.

"[The cashier] told me that they would not accept my money because of the printing error, as advised by the bank. She clarified, however, that it is not fake," Leal said.

Local businessmen, who examined a P500 bill, said it had passed the basic "paper test"—checking for the security marks—as well as the "ultraviolet light" test for a genuine bill.

They suspect that the missing names might have been caused by another printing error, similar to that involving the misspelled "Arrovo" in P100 bills in November last year.

Sought for comment, the cashier said she was advised by the store's manager not to accept the notes, upon the advice of their employer's bank.

She said she has turned away several customers carrying the P500 bills with an apparent printing error.

Leal said she got the note, which appeared to have already been in circulation for some time, from one of the automated teller machines (ATM) in the town on Sunday.

Leal's note clearly differs from the 13 pieces of fake P500 bills and three pieces of counterfeit P1,000 bills that were confiscated in Aritao on Monday, according to police. *Melvin Gascon, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Kidnappers hurting girl to force kin to pay ransom

ZAMBOANGA CITY—THE ARMED men that kidnapped the deaf-mute daughter of Dr. Eldigario Gonzales, president of the Western Mindanao State University (WMSU) here, have started hurting their victim to force the family into paying ransom.

Gonzales told the INQUIRER that on Sunday evening, the kidnappers called him up and put Grace on the phone.

"She's crying in pain. I know she was being hurt by her abductors," Gonzales said.

He said his daughter would only cry when in pain.

"I know they were hurting my girl," Gonzales said.

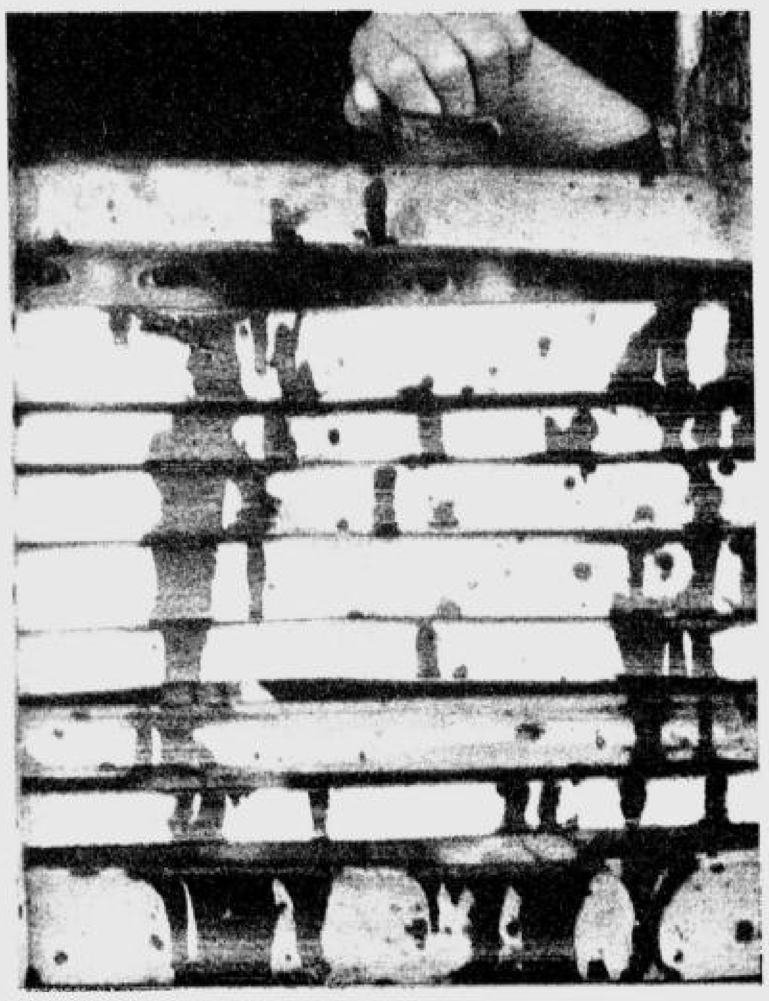
Grace was walking with a friend inside Aurora Village in Barangay Guiwan here on July 30 when she was snatched. The perpetrators hit her companion with the butt of a gun before taking their captive away.

Based on reports from authorities, the kidnappers had fled with Grace to Basilan.

The kidnappers later contacted Gonzales and demanded P20 million in ransom.

"But with so many brokers trying to negotiate with the family, we don't really know who are we going to trust," Brig. Gen. Raymundo Ferrer, commander of the Army's 103rd Infantry Brigade in Basilan, said.

Asked what group the perpetrators belong to, Gonzales said he does not know. *Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*



PEEK

Children take a peek from slats in their home's window at ongoing efforts to remove a massive oil spill on Guimaras Island that has reached their house. ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

ROUNDUP

Helper slain in rob try

LUCENA CITY—A truck helper was killed Saturday after his driver foiled an attempt by a group of unidentified suspects to hijack their cargo in Barangay Lumingon in Tiaong, Quezon. Police said Crispulo Elaba died after the truck he was riding in was shot by the suspects when the driver refused to to stop and instead sideswiped the Tamaraw FX that the suspects were using. ***Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon***

Jeep falls off bridge

LEGAZPI CITY—A pilgrimage turned into tragedy after a jeep carrying 20 devotees of Nuestra Señora de Salvacion in Joroan, Tiwi, Albay fell off a bridge in Barangay Bantayan, Tabaco City, leaving two dead and nine injured. Driver Salvador Sabaroso said the jeep lost its brakes, swerved and fell off the bridge. Dead were Maximo Balictar, 35, of Buhi, Camarines Sur and Salvador Aldua of San Buena, Camarines Sur. They were on their way to Joroan, Tiwi for the patron saint's feast. ***Ephraim Aguilar, Inquirer Southern Luzon***

Working without permit

A JAPANESE national is facing criminal charges and summary deportation at the Bureau of Immigration for unlawful employment in the country. Maria Antonette Bucasas, a special prosecutor at the BI, recommended the filing of charges against Hisahiro Yoshida and his deportation for violating local immigration laws. In a press statement, the Platinum Group Metals Corp. admitted Yoshida was employed as its consultant but was unaware that he was working illegally. Benjamin Kalaw, acting BI legal division chief, said Yoshida, 58, a tourist visa holder, was arrested June 24.

Top 'pancit' eater

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Two pancit-eating records were broken at the recent Pancit Festival here. Michael Gabuyo was declared the "heaviest *pancit* eater" for consuming 3.9 kg of steaming *pancit guisado* (sauteed noodles). He dethroned Ardy Buguina who consumed only 1.58 kg. Clifford Longzaneda was declared the fastest male *pancit* eater for consuming 1.75 kg of steaming spicy *pancit* in 58 seconds, breaking the record of 1.58 minutes. The fastest female *pancit* eater was Maricar Soriano who consumed 1.75 kg of *pancit* in 2.24 minutes. ***Estanislao Caldez, Inquirer Northern Luzon***

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Another killing, 8 arrests

From page A1

In Quezon, eight Karapatan members, who were with relatives of an alleged communist rebel who was killed in a clash with Army soldiers on Friday, were held in military custody in Catanauan town. The Karapatan members were accompanying the relatives who were trying to retrieve the body.

Ms Arroyo, whose administration has come under heavy criticism because of the killings, said in a radio program that the commission, chaired by former Supreme Court Justice Jose Melo, would have broad powers to probe the rash of killings, help prosecute suspects, and recommend policies to end the violence.

Former NPA member

Chief Supt. Antonio Nañas, Caraga police chief, said investigators were looking "deeply" into the involvement of the communist New People's Army (NPA) in Marqueza's death.

"He was a former NPA. He might have been killed by the rebel group as part of its propaganda and 'blame-the-government' tactic," Nañas told the INQUIRER.

Marqueza's group suspected military men may have played a role in the killing because the attacker used a sniper's rifle commonly used by Army soldiers, according to The Associated Press.

Nañas said statements from the victim's wife and other possible witnesses were being gathered to speed up the solution of the killing.

In a press conference at the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) office in Quezon City, Doris Cuario, secretary general of Karapatan-Southern Tagalog, said the eight members of her group were "abducted" by soldiers of the 74th Infantry Brigade in Catanauan.

She identified seven of them as Mary Jane Almoete, Christopher de Leon, Khristina Mae Guray, Virgilio Tulay, Ramon Lastique, Leonardo de Dios and Nona de Dios. The identity of the eighth victim was still being verified, she said.

Woman rebel's body

They were in the company of the family of the slain woman guerrilla, whom they identified as Racquel Aumentado of Infanta, Quezon, Cuario said.

The spokesperson of the NPA Apolonio Mendoza Command (AMC) operating in Quezon yesterday identified the fatality as Rachel Aumentado.

"The group was accompanying the Aumentado family, who wanted to retrieve the body of their relative, when the military arrested them in Barangay Tagbacan Ibaba," she said.

The team was also on a mission to document complaints of human rights violations in villages surrounding the encounter site, she said.

When the INQUIRER reached the military detachment in Catanauan, Lt. Col. Amado Bustillos, chief of the Army's 74th IB, confirmed that the human rights workers were in its custody.

"We prevented them from proceeding to the encounter site because my men are still conducting pursuit operations. I don't want to compromise the safety of outsiders," Bustillos said in a mobile phone interview.

MISSING
Rudy Calubad

ELIZABETH Calubad joins a rally to protest the killings of political activists and the abduction of her husband, Rudy Calubad, and son, Gabriel, on July 28, 2006, in Quezon City. In her arms is her 2-year-old granddaughter Rebimae, daughter of Gabriel. AP

A GROUP of women stage a rally outside Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City to protest the killings of activists in this file photo taken on June 20.

"But we will turn them over to the police for proper disposition," he added.

'Yelen Bagnit'

Bustillos said soldiers recovered from the personal belongings of the slain rebel an identification card bearing the name Yelen Bagnit and a diary.

The NPA spokesperson, who identified himself as Armine de Guia, described the woman as "very young, in her mid-20s and a good cultural worker."

"She was not a combatant but a revolutionary cultural activist engaged in launching cultural workshops and conducting research and social investigations for their materials," he said in a mobile phone interview.

Bustillos said local villagers reported the location of the body to the military only on Monday, or four days after the encounter. It was already in an advanced state of decomposition, he said.

Apart from retrieving the remains, the Karapatan team had intended to investigate the alleged mauling of farmers Binoy and Jeffrey Amorcillo, and Armon Rogelio by soldiers, Cuario, the group's regional officer, said.

Black propaganda

She said the military had been waging black propaganda against Karapatan since the President declared an "all-out war" on the communist insurgency.

"They put up streamers and posters claiming that Karapatan was not really recording human rights violations but actually protecting the Communist Party of the Philippines and the NPA," Cuario said.

In a phone interview, Maj. Gen. Alexander Yano, chief of the military's Southern Luzon Command based in Lucena City, questioned the presence of the Karapatan team at the encounter scene.

Yano said it was unusual for Karapatan members to be in a far-flung village at the time, so his men brought them to the Catanauan police station.

"We decided to escort them out of harm's way. There was an ongoing encounter there, why would they take photos and videos at the scene of the encounter?" Yano said.

He claimed that the group was obstructing an ongoing investigation of the military and "disturbing" the scene of the encounter. "We may file a case of obstruction of justice against them," he said.

With reports from DJ Yap, AP

Bishop says no; still no word from Justice Melo

From page A1

member, in a compromising position. The CBCP issues pastoral letters on sociopolitical issues.

The prelate also cited urgent pastoral obligations, including retreats he would be conducting in the United States, and the strain of having to travel to Manila from the far-flung Batanes diocese he serves.

Gregorio informed Fr. Juanito Figura, acting CBCP secretary general, about his decision in a text message which was released to reporters.

He said he thanked Ms Arroyo for the "gracious invitation," adding, "I'm willing to serve our country in another capacity."

A letter outlining Gregorio's decision was to be sent to Malacañang yesterday.

On Monday, Gregorio indicated to the INQUIRER his ambivalence to his appointment to the panel that includes National Bureau of Investigation Director Nestor Mantaring, 58, Chief Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño, 61, and Nelia Gonzalez, 82, of the University of the Philippines Board of Regents.

"If it's really going to be an independent investigative body and we are not just there to be rubber stamps, then I want to give it a chance," said Gregorio, former bishop of Bacolod who is now assigned in Batanes.

"I would welcome cases presented to me that I can bring to the commission. Let this commission be an instrument for truth and goodness," he told the INQUIRER on Monday.

Gregorio said he would work closely with the social action offices of the Catholic Church.

Just a decoration

Archbishop Oscar Cruz of Lingayen and Dagupan told reporters that another explanation for Gregorio's stepping aside was a Canon Law provision prohibiting clerics from "exercising public office that partakes of civil power."

"I praise him for his decision because he will just be used as a decoration," Cruz said.

"This commission is a camouflage so that if nothing happens with its investigation, the administration will not be blamed but the commission," he said.

The only other reaction from a commission member came from the NBI director. Mantaring expressed readiness to begin work in the commission, brushing reporters aside. "Permit us to begin our investigation first before asking questions," he said.

MELO

ZUÑO

GONZALEZ

MANTARING

GREGORIO

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said critics should give the commission a chance to do its work as he expressed confidence it would be able to do a good job. "Our detractors should adopt a fair attitude and refrain from labeling a body that has not even started its work," he said.

Bunye was reacting to statements of opposition Senators Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Panfilo Lacson who were critical of the commission.

The two senators said that only Ms Arroyo had the power to stop the murders.

President determined

Bunye said the President was determined to "get to the bottom of extrajudicial killings, stop them and make sure human rights are constantly protected."

"We are confident the commission will act to uphold and further these goals," he said in a statement.

Quintin Cueto, CHR commissioner in charge, added his voice to the critics of the commission but stressed it was a personal view because the body had yet to meet en banc.

"There's doubt on the commission," Cueto said, pointing out that Mantaring and Zuño belonged to the Department of Justice under the Office of the President. "It's still the President who calls the shots," he added.

CHR can do work

Cueto said the commission formed by Ms Arroyo had the same functions as the CHR.

"We can investigate. In fact we can motu proprio look into allegations of human rights violations. We can summon officials, documents and we can also cite for contempt if we don't get cooperation," he said.

Cueto added the CHR did not have members from the Malacañang staff as it was an independent government agency.

"What we don't have is the necessary funding. If only the President will give us the money, we can do it," he said.

Executions

Cueto said that with just a P200-million annual budget, the CHR could not even provide the necessary witness protection or employ its own forensic investigation staff.

CHR Chair Purificacion Quisumbing had criticized the Arroyo administration for its failure to curb the rash of killings of leftist workers. Leftist groups said that political executions had left around 700 dead. The INQUIRER count was 200; police put it at 100.

Tim Parrit, Southeast Asia director of Amnesty International, told the INQUIRER that UN principles for the prevention of extralegal executions provided for the appointment of members known for their impartiality, competence and independence.

"They should be independent of any institution, agency or person which may be the subject of the inquiry. Such a body/procedure should have the authority to obtain all information necessary to the inquiry," Parritt said in an e-mail to the INQUIRER. *With reports from Christian V. Esguerra, Norman Bordadora, Margaux C. Ortiz and Joey Gabieta, Inquirer Visayas*

Probe head 'consensus builder'

From page A1

less than the highest degree of integrity in decision-making, disposition of cases without undue delay but with acuity, erudition and zeal, a fitting response to the public clamor for speedy justice at the least possible expense."

Prolific output

. Melo had a "prolific output" during a 10-year stint in the high court that he "simply ran out of cases to decide," said a plaque of appreciation presented to him on his retirement on May 29, 2002.

He was the first appointee to the Supreme Court in 1992 of former President Fidel Ramos. Before that, he had served as acting presiding justice of the Court of Appeals, where he also established a record of having a zero backlog of cases.

Of his 40 years in public service, 17 were spent outside the judiciary.

Melo joined the government in 1962 as an executive assistant in the Malacañang legal office during the administration of President Diosdado Macapagal, Ms Arroyo's father. He then went to the Office of the Solicitor General in 1971 and was named concurrent acting commissioner of the Professional Regulation Commission until 1975.

He was subsequently appointed commissioner of the Civil Service Commission before being named to the Court of Appeals in 1979.

Melo also served as "confidential assistant" to the chair of the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission and later as an advisor in the Philippine National Bank.

Ideological struggle

A native of Pampanga, Melo studied law at the MLQ School of Law and later joined the law firm of Sen. Jose W. Diokno. In 1960, he obtained a master's of law degree with the highest grade of "meritissimus" from the University of Sto. Tomas.

"He will do a good job," said Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile. "He has intimate knowledge of the social and political condition of the country, the ongoing ideological struggle in the land, the long and unsettled revolution."

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan, the chamber's representative to the Judicial Bar Council, said that even before Melo could get down to work, the commission had already come under a "heavy cloud of doubt."

Only by performing well could the commission overcome doubts about its independence, he said.

"They will prove their critics wrong or right with their performance. Their performance will either confirm or belie the doubts and suspicions they now face," said Pangilinan.

Sen. Franklin Drilon said questions about the commission's credibility arose from the inclusion of Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño and National Bureau of Investigation Director Nestor Mantaring, who are both under the Office of the President.

Fernando Commission

Drilon said the Melo panel could suffer the same fate as the short-lived commission led by Chief Justice Enrique Fernando which looked into the assassination of opposition leader Benigno Aquino Jr. in August 1983.

"It failed because it failed to evince confidence which could be the basis for cooperation. If there's no confidence in the panel, then you don't expect cooperation," Drilon said.

Enrile, however, said that it was "unfair to judge them" at this point. "They should be given the chance to prove themselves," he said.

Sen. Joker Arroyo agreed: "We should give it a chance."

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Solons want Joc-joc deposition

THE OPPOSITION IS PLANNING to ask the US immigration court to allow its members to get a deposition from former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante about the P728 million fertilizer fund scam, an opposition lawyer said yesterday.

This as the immigration judge hearing Bolante's case has still to decide whether subsequent hearings would be open or closed to the media, he added.

Harry Roque Jr. said that the impeachment legal team was urging senators to file a motion with Chicago immigration Judge George Katsivalis to allow them to question Bolante about the fund mess.

"The House impeachment team was supposed to do this but with impeachment about to be killed, it would be up to the Senate to pursue this," Roque said in a telephone interview from Hong Kong.

'PROLONGING THE WAKE'

House committee OKs report on impeachment

By Michael Lim Ubac

IS THIS A CASE OF PROLONGing the wake?

In a closed-door meeting, the House committee on justice voted yesterday to uphold the final report on the dismissal last Wednesday of the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The minority members of the panel, in a gesture of protest, did not participate in the voting.

The plenary vote on the committee action scheduled last night was postponed after the minority questioned the failure of the justice committee to distribute copies of the report to its members.

Parañaque City Rep. Roilo Golez, an impeachment proponent, accused the majority of railroading the impeachment proceedings but House Deputy Majority Leader Edcel Lagman observed that "the opposition is vainly prolonging the wake of a lifeless complaint."

Saying the "railroad is not the avenue for a funeral hearse," Lagman explained his motion to approve the committee report in principle was consistent with the parliamentary practice of expediting an action rendered a "fait accompli" by a previous voting, which occurred last Wednesday when the committee voted to junk the complaint for insufficiency in substance.

During the voting last week to frustrate the second attempt by the minority to impeach President Arroyo in as many years, Lagman's words carried weight as he declared that the impeachment complaint would not be killed by the committee.

"It was already dead on arrival. What was brought before the committee on justice was a cadaver of a complaint," said Lagman, who described the intense debate on the sufficiency in substance of the complaint as "funeral orations."

Lagman noted the initiative was destined to fail not only because the complainants and their allies lacked the numbers "but principally because the complaint itself manifestly lacked substance."

"Had the opposition members allowed the full exposition of the motion, they would have been apprised of the parameters of the committee report," said Lagman.

He added that the opposition "cannot not hide the sloppy preparation and execution of their impeachment agenda with howls of empty protest."

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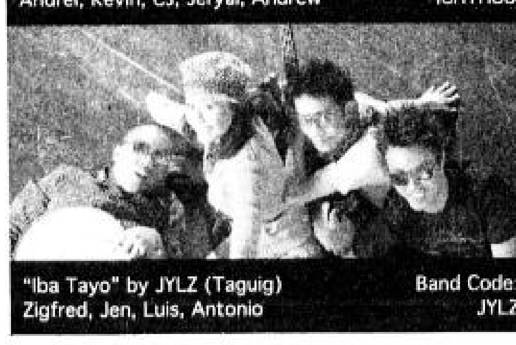
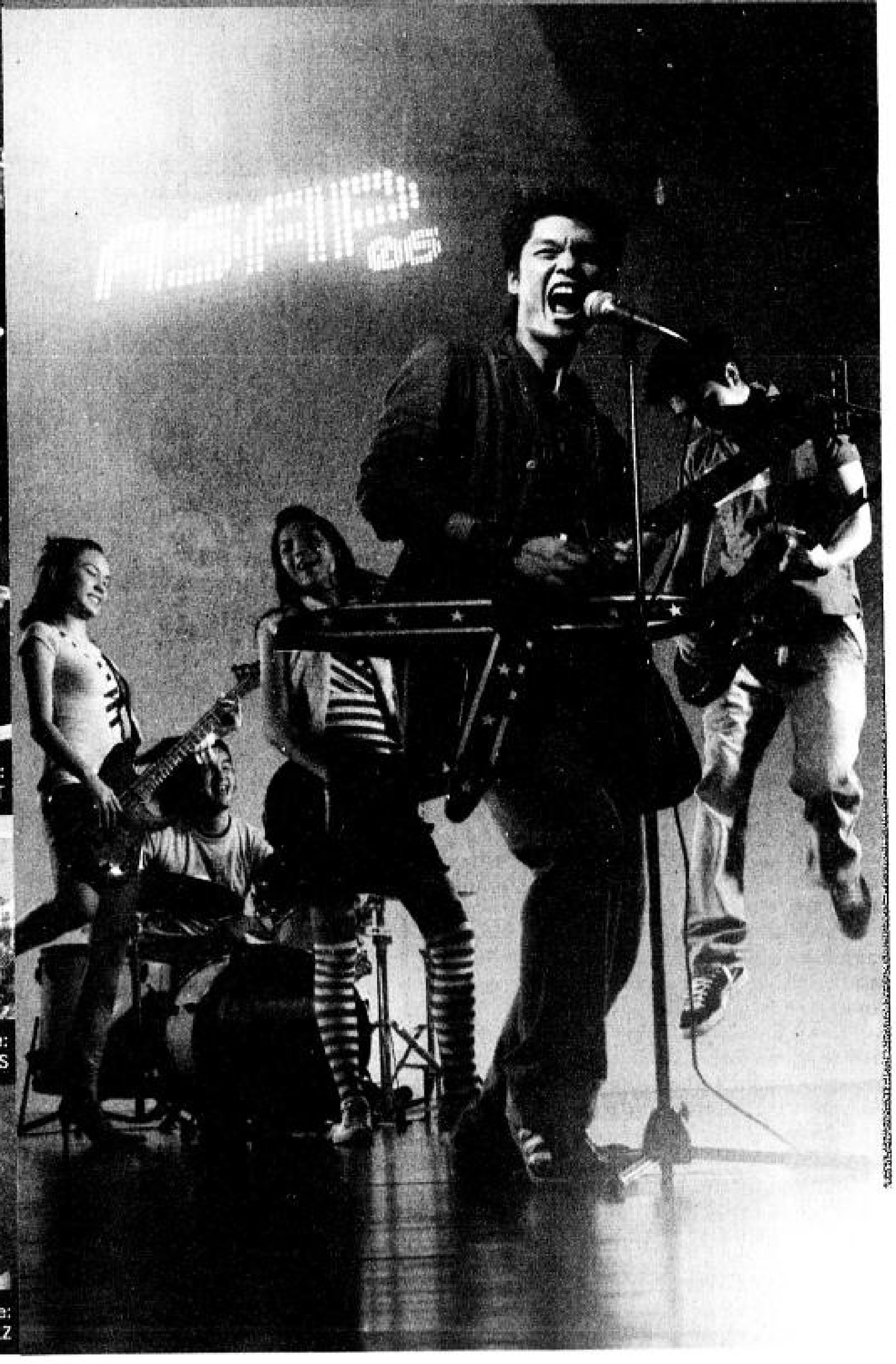
"Lakas Kabataan" by Footprint (Legaspi) Band Code: FOOT
Jan Mark, Paul, Vincent, Stephen

"Sayaskwela" by Ichthus (Calamba) Band Code: ICHTHUS
Andrei, Kevin, CJ, Jeryal, Andrew



"Iba Tayo" by JYLZ (Taguig) Band Code: JYLZ
Zigfred, Jen, Luis, Antonio



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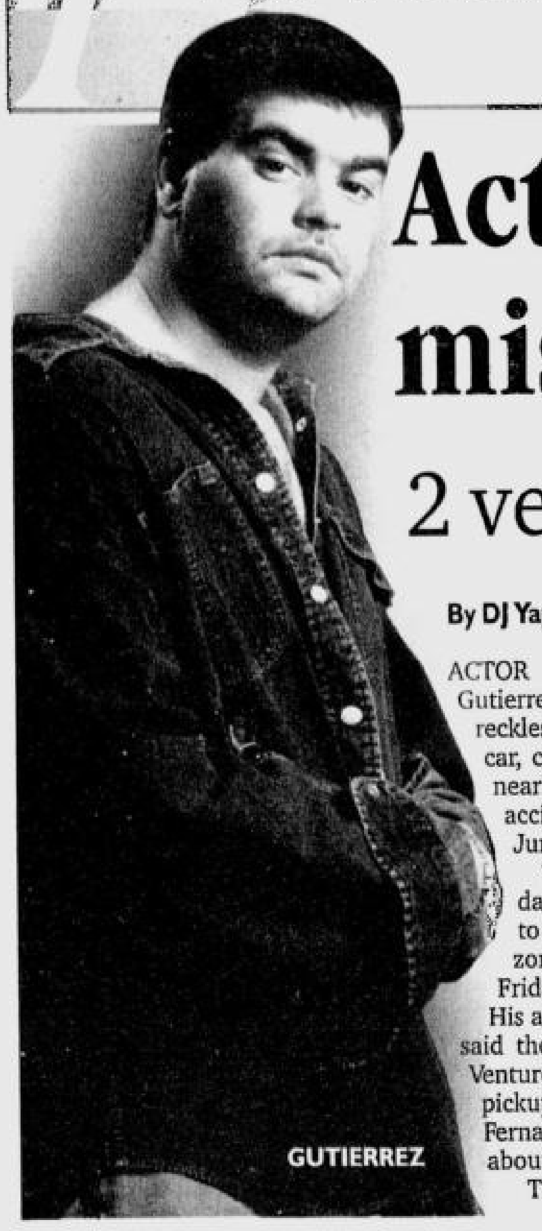
2 versions, says accused


GUTIERREZ

By DJ Yap and Bayani San Diego Jr.

ACTOR RAMON CHRISTOPHER Gutierrez has been charged with reckless imprudence after he hit a car, causing it to turn turtle and nearly wrecking it during a road accident in Quezon City last June.

The accident resulted in damage to property, according to a complaint filed in the Quezon City prosecutor's office on Friday.

His accuser, Ryan Jeffrey Son, 23, said the actor, driving a Chevrolet Venture bumped his Toyota Hi-Lux pickup at the intersection of Scout Fernandez and Scout Torillo at about 3 a.m. on June 20.

The pickup was a company vehicle registered under the name of Euzkadi Holdings Corp. The Chevrolet, on the other hand, was registered under the name of Gutierrez's mother, veteran singer Pilita Corrales. Gutierrez is Corrales' son with actor Eddie Gutierrez.

A car repair shop later estimated the damage to his car at P732,508, Son said.

Gutierrez had been driving with only a temporary permit since his driver's license had been confiscated for a traffic violation, Son said in his complaint.

The actor, however, said he has yet to receive a copy of the complaint. "It's a vehicular accident and not a result of a personal altercation, so it should be coursed through our re-

ACTOR/A18

DID YOU KNOW

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Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

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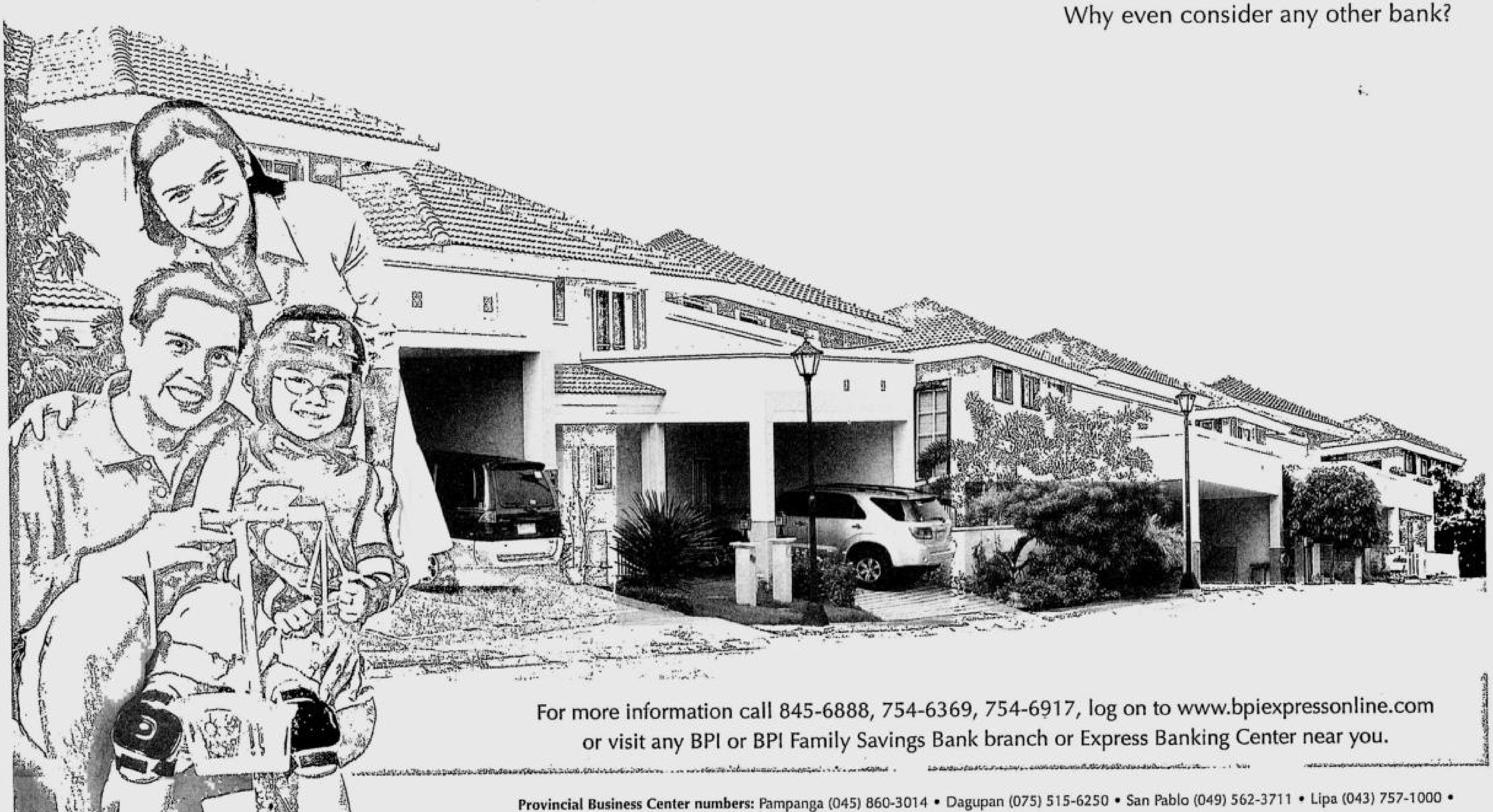
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METROBRIEFS

Shot over a piece of roof

A MAN was listed in critical condition in the hospital after a security guard shot him following an argument over a sheet of galvanized roof in Navotas. The victim, Joel Valenzuela, 30, of Interior Gulayan, Gov. Pascual Street in Barangay San Jose, Navotas, is now confined at the Tondo General Hospital for gunshot wounds. The suspect, security guard Raul Naduco, was arrested and would be charged with frustrated murder. Police officer-on-case PO3 Sandy Falcutila said the incident happened at 10 p.m. Monday. He said the victim reportedly went to the suspect's house to ask for a piece of galvanized sheet to repair his roof. The guard, however, refused, leading to an argument between him and the victim. At the height of the argument, the suspect took out his gun and shot the victim.

DJ Yap

Red-faced students

MORE than 30 nursing students of the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Marikina yesterday went to the police to file a complaint against a hardware store. The students told investigator PO2 Bueneres Cruz that they went to the Marikina Hardware Store in Barangay Sto. Niño on Saturday afternoon to buy a can of body paint which they would use for an interschool dance competition. The hardware did not have any body paint so the students asked for a can of latex paint. But the hardware only had one small can which was not enough for the group. The salespersons at the hardware store then suggested that they just purchase a big can of textile paint. "They assured us we can just use the latex paint. They even advised us to use a sponge so the paint would apply better on our skin," one of the students said in her statement. The students applied the paint on their faces on Sunday noon but soon after, the paint started to burn their skin. The students said they just endured the pain because the contest was starting at 1 p.m. They washed their faces four hours later but by then, their skin were already red.

Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

Suspects still at large

THE RANKING official of the Marikina City Hall who was gunned down in front of his house on Thursday was laid to rest yesterday afternoon. His killers, however, remain free. Police have already released a sketch of one of the four killers based on the description given by a witness although investigators admitted that they are still "facing a blank wall," city police chief Supt. Sotero Ramos told the INQUIRER. City Settlement Office operations chief Nicasio Cruz, 38, was shot dead in front of his house by two men. Police are still looking at reports that the assassination could have been work-related as the victim had been receiving death threats.

Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

Pasay City police chief loses post

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE CHIEF OF THE PASAY City Police has been relieved of his post nearly a week after his men tried to arrest Sen. Jose "Jinggoy" Estrada on Aug. 16 in connection with a P10-million libel suit filed against him by First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo.

Southern Police District (SPD) director Ricardo Padilla announced yesterday that Senior Supt. Rosendo Franco, Pasay police chief, would be reporting "in the meantime" to the SPD Headquarters Support Group.

"An investigation regarding the hullabaloo at the Senate last week is ongoing and once a policeman is investigated, the organization is bound to relieve him," Padilla said.

The investigation was ordered by National Capital Region Police Office chief Reynaldo Varilla.

Estrada managed to elude arrest after Senate President Manuel Villar blocked the serving of the warrant and drove the policemen away.

Relieved along with Franco were six other Pasay policemen, including Supt. Simon Gonzales, chief of the city's Criminal Investigation Division.

Franco confirmed that he received the relief offer on Monday night. Ironically, Franco was replaced by former Makati police chief Marietto Valerio who had gone on emergency leave on the same night his men arrested Roberto Brillante, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay's political rival.

There were reports that Valerio was fired, although this was denied by Padilla who had said earlier that the police official merely went on emergency leave. Yesterday, however, Padilla claimed it was Valerio who wanted to leave his post.

"Valerio himself had told Binay that he was leaving as he was no longer effective. He was not relieved because of that. Why was he still assigned as officer in charge of Pasay if he was wrong in serving the warrant of arrest for Brillante," he told reporters.

For reinstatement

Pasay Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad, meanwhile, said he was in favor of having Franco reinstated.

"I don't want it to look like he is being punished," the mayor said, adding that he would testify in the ongoing investigation to help clear Franco's name.

Trinidad said the police team went to the Senate to merely inform the Senate sergeant-at-arms that a warrant for Estrada had been issued by Pasay Judge Wilhelmina Jorge Wagan.

"They did their duty according to the law. With this incident, would police officers still have the courage to carry out their duties such as serving warrants of arrest?" he asked.

The mayor asked the SPD to finish its investigation of the incident within 10 days.

Padilla, however, stressed that Franco was not being investigated for serving the arrest warrant but because of the way the warrant was served.

Medical aid awaits tutors

By DJ Yap

QUEZON CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS will no longer have to shoulder the cost of their yearly health examinations, if a proposed ordinance is approved by their councilors.

The city government is poised to earmark P1 million to subsidize the medical checkup of some 9,000 public grade school and high school teachers, thanks to the proposal..

Authored by Councilor Elizabeth Delarmente, the ordinance allocates funding for teachers' medical tests, including electrocardiogram screening, urinalysis and chest X-rays, among others. It is "necessary to safeguard the health of public school teachers so they can perform their work effectively," Delarmente said.

She lamented the fact that despite their meager salaries, teachers have to pay for the tests themselves, even when the local government has enough funds to foot the bill. The ordinance was co-introduced by Councilors Voltaire Godofredo Liban III, Joseph Juico, Jorge Banal Jr. and Victor Ferrer Jr.

The ordinance says funds for the tests shall be taken from the Special Education Fund, or from any available source from the treasury.

Fil-Am slay suspect set for extradition

By Margaux C. Ortiz

AGENTS OF THE NATIONAL BUREAU of Investigation have arrested a Filipino-American who fled to the Philippines after allegedly conspiring to kill his wife in the United States more than a decade ago.

Suspect Abelardo Tasa—also known as Larry Tasa and Larry Abanez—is set to be extradited to the US where he will face charges of first degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder before the Superior Court of California.

According to NBI Interpol chief Claro de Castro Jr., Tasa conspired with two of his former employees to kill his wife, Rebecca, in 1992 so he could collect $300,00 in life insurance.

Based on records, Tasa ordered Timothy Shawn Victor and Jose Daniel Flores—former workers at the Tasas' Taco Time restaurant in La Mesa, California—to make it appear that his wife was killed during a burglary in their home.

The NBI official said that a month prior to the incident, Tasa had bought several insurance policies for his wife.

On Jan. 22, 1992, Rebecca was found murdered in their residence at 11507 Green Lane, Lakeside, California.

Tasa told police investigators that upon returning home, he found his wife lying on the floor near the house's main door, still wearing her nurse's uniform.

Autopsy revealed that the victim had sustained three stab wounds on her neck after being strangled. A large bloodstained kitchen knife was found near Rebecca, records showed.

On Dec. 23, 1997, arrest warrants were issued against Victor and Flores for murder, conspiracy to commit murder and burglary. Victor was arrested the following year and sentenced to life imprisonment without parole while Flores was nabbed by authorities in 2003 and sentenced to 26 years to life imprisonment after pleading guilty to first degree murder.

De Castro said Tasa fled to the Philippines in September 1992 without notifying the officer investigating the case. "Tasa never called or contacted the authorities regarding the status of the investigation on his wife's murder," a NBI Interpol report showed. On July 27 this year, the NBI Interpol Division received an order of arrest for Tasa from the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 41.

NBI agents finally located Tasa in Kalibo, Aklan. Following his arrest by Special Investigators Mario Garcia and Sixto Espenesin Jr., on Aug. 11, he was brought to Manila where he is awaiting extradition proceedings, De Castro said.

Actor in road . . .

From page A17

spective insurance companies," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Corrales, meanwhile, said that it was Son who hit her car and not the other way around.

She also pointed out that Son was hesitant to report the accident to the police, but her son insisted on doing so.

Gutierrez, for his part, acknowledged that "there are sketchy versions of what happened that night. I suppose we both have our own versions of the accident, so it's up to the proper authorities, the insurance companies and our lawyers to sort things out."

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RP MOVES TOWARD HIGH-VALUE OUTSOURCING
- Business World Online February 18, 2006

The Philippines, as a destination for offshore investments, never looked better as it does now. No longer capitalizing on human resources alone, the country has now all the facilities to support an outsourcing industry---April B. Rosales, Computer World Magazine Reporter, March 30,2006

"After establishing a strong niche in the call center industry the Philippines is now targeting high-value data outsourcing contracts in the field of animation, software development, legal and medical transcription, architectural and financials. A strategy is needed to keep the country's position as a preferred global site for offshore services."

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In a joint forecast by the Business Process Association of the Philippines (BPAP), Board of Investments (BOI) and the Commission on Information and Communications Technology (CICT) the Philippine outsourcing industry will create 103,000 new jobs in 2006 generating 3.7 billion US dollars in revenues this year.

The SEVENTH of the series, Business Opportunities 2007 provides a venue for SMEs in the industry to create and develop strong and reliable partnership with the major players in the IT industry. These partnerships can be developed and created in various forms such as strategic alliances, consortia, joint venture agreement or simple memorandum of understanding among two or more parties to increase their capabilities in terms of capital funding, technology application, talent scouting, risk taking and market access.

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PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

DAY 1

8:00 - 9:00	Registration	
9:00 - 10:00	Parade of Colors	
	Invocation & National Anthem Welcome Remarks	Dr. Mina T. Gabor, *President, Philippine Small and Medium Business Development Foundation*
	DTI's commitment to Philippine ICT for SMEs	Sec. Peter B. Favila, *Secretary, Department of Trade & Industry*
	Introduction of Keynote Speaker	Ms. Dittas Formoso, *President, Information Technology Association of the Philippines*
	Keynote Speech	*Philip Bond, President, Information Technology Association of America, USA*
10:00 - 10:15	COFFEE BREAK - RAFFLE DRAW OF PRIZES	
10:15 - 11:45	Sustaining the Momentum Gained in a Leading Edge Industry: Incentivizing Start Ups *Moderator: Maureen Santiago, EVP & CEO, Capwire Telecommunications, Inc*	IT and Telecommunications CEOs Forum***
11:45 - 12:00	Is Asean the Door for Philippines To Develop Worldwide Contact	Dr. Philip Dews, UK *Asean Regional Business Forum Malaysia*
12:00 - 12:30	ICT Roadmap that will impact SME growth	Ramon P. Sales *Chairman, Commission on Information and Communications Technology*
12:30 - 1:30	Luncheon Keynote Speaker	Manuel Rosales, USA *Deputy Director for International Affairs Small Business Administration*
1:30 - 2:30	Successes/ Challenges in Implementing Non-Traditional Management Methods *Moderator: Rene [illegible] Gutierrez, Editor-in-Chief, Computerworld Philippines*	Joey Gurango *Founder/CEO Gurango Software* Francisco "Paco" Sandejas, Ph.D. *Managing Partner Narra Venture Capital* Artemio "Junie" Pama, Jr. *Country Manager [illegible] Phils.*
2:30 - 3:30	Success in Utilizing ICT In New Businesses	Miguel Garcia *President & Managing Director [illegible] Interactive* Edgardo B. Herbosa *Founder B2Bpricenow.com* Honorable Feliciano Belmonte, Jr. *Mayor, Quezon City*
3:30 - 4:00	COFFEE BREAK - RAFFLE DRAW OF PRIZES	
4:00 - 4:30	Legal Process Implications in Developing Business Opportunities	Atty. Liwayway Vinzons-Chato *Managing Partner Chato-Vinzons Law Office*
4:30 - 5:00	Value of Respecting Intellectual Property to Business Growth	Atty. Eduardo C. Escaño *Center for Intellectual Property Educational*
5:00 - 5:30	Creating a Competitive Regulatory Environment to Induce ICT Growth	Ronald O. Solis, Commissioner *National Telecommunications Commission*
5:30 ONWARDS	Bulong Pulungan sa BizOps 2007 - "Enabling the Businessman in the Countryside to Share Business in ICT"*** *Moderator: Julie Yap Daza and Deedee Siytangco*	

DAY 2

8:00 - 9:00	Registration	
9:00 - 10:00	Forward ICT Philippines: Linking up of Academe, Private Sector, Government and the International Market *Special Message* *Private Sector Response*	Dr. Estrella F. Alabastro, Secretary *Department of Science & Technology* Mitchell L. Locsin, *Executive Director Business Processing Association of the Phils*
10:00 - 11:00	Technology Solutions for SME's *(Panel Discussion)* *Moderator: Reginald Yu, Partner KPMG Laya Mananghaya & Co*	Ricardo Banaag, *Country Manager Intel Microelectronics Phils.* Nilo S. Cruz *Managing Director HP Phils.* Cynthia Mamon, *President & Managing Director, Sun Microsystems Philippines Inc*
11:00 - 12:00	Putting Digital Content Center Stage: Philippines, a Reliable Partner *(Panel Discussion)* *Moderator: David Fernando, Managing Director, Technology Support Services, Inc.*	Luis Paolo M. Pineda *Managing Director ABS-CBN Interactive* Jose Benjamin Colayco, COO *Level Up Inc* Jaime Enrique Y. Gonzales *President/Managing Director IPVG* Neil Dagondon, *President Anino Entertainment* Dennis Mendiola, CEO *Chikka Asia Inc.*
12:00 - 2:00	BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS *Dan Salcedo - Guest of Honor and Speaker Founder, www.peoplelink.org/www.celgen.com USA*	(Separate Program)
2:00 - 3:30	Revenue Opportunities in the ICT Enabled Businesses *Moderator: Chrissie Mañalac, PR Manager, TrixTech*	Danilo Sebastian Reyes *Country Manager, [illegible]* James M. Donovan *President & CEO ADEC Solutions Inc* Marie Grace Dimaranan *President, American Council of the Phils. Inc* Myla Rose M. Reyes, *President Medical Transcription Industry Association of the Philippines* Rita Cruz, *Senior Executive, Accenture*
3:30 - 3:45	COFFEE BREAK - RAFFLE DRAW OF PRIZES	
3:45 - 6:00	Country ICT Experiences in Encouraging SME Business *Moderator: Dr. Philip Dews, UK Asean Regional Business Forum Malaysia*	*Speakers from UK, Canada, Australia, India, Japan****
6:00 ONWARDS	*Business Networking/Employment Opportunities & Product Presentation*	

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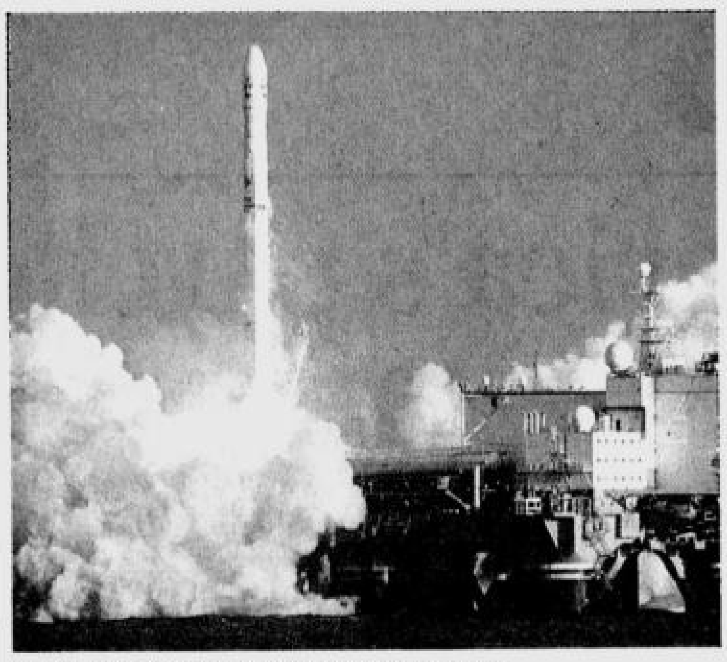


FIRST SOKOR MILITARY SATELLITE
South Korea successfully launches its first military satellite on Tuesday, part of upgrading its defense capabilities against North Korea. The "Mugunghwa 5," also designed for commercial use, was launched from waters near Hawaii. REUTERS

11 charged in UK terror plot

LONDON—SUSPECTS ACCUSED IN THE ALleged plot to blow up US-bound airliners began arriving in court on Tuesday for their first appearance before a judge on terrorism charges.

They arrived by police convoy to the City of Westminster Magistrates Court in London—the first time they were seen in public since being arrested Aug. 10.

Eight people were charged with two offenses each—conspiracy to commit murder and preparing acts of terrorism. A 17-year-old was charged with possession of articles that could be used to prepare a terrorist act, and two people were charged with failing to disclose information that could help prevent a terrorist act.

One person was released without charge, while 11 others remain in custody but have not yet been charged. Nine of those charged are from London, according to a Bank of England list of suspects whose assets were frozen following the arrests. Two are from suburban High Wycombe, 50 km northwest of London.

Investigators warned that the evidence was still being examined in minute detail.

"Fingerprints, DNA, electronic data, handwriting comparisons, chemical analysis and indeed the full range of forensic disciplines will be used," Peter Clarke, the head of the Metropolitan Police's antiterrorism unit told reporters after the Crown Prosecution Service announced the charges on Monday.

"The meticulous investigation of all this material will take many months. All the data will be analyzed. There will be thousands of forensic examinations and comparisons," he said. "The scale is immense, inquiries will span the globe."

British officials also confirmed for the first time that the plot involved the manufacture of explosives, which would then be assembled and detonated on board airliners.

"There are chemicals, including hydrogen peroxide, electrical components, documents and other items," Clarke said. "We have also found a number of video recordings—these are sometimes referred to as martyrdom videos. This has all given us a clearer picture of the alleged plot."

The details of the charges against one man, Mehran Hussain, allege that sometime between Sept. 23, 2005, and Aug. 10—the day police announced the plot had been busted—he had information that could have prevented a terrorist act and didn't disclose it.

More than 8,000 items of data storage, such as compact discs, DVDs and memory sticks, were found. Maps of Afghanistan, suicide notes from willing terrorists and books on explosives also were seized, officials said. For the 11 people still in custody—whose names have not been released by police—questioning continues. Investigators have until Wednesday to decide if they will be charged, released, or if police will ask a judge to grant them more time to investigate.

"Their position is being assessed on a regular basis with a view to considering the need to keep them in detention," said Susan Hemming, who heads the Crown Prosecution Service's Counter-Terrorism Division. "We cannot yet make a decision about whether further charges will follow or if a further application for detention will be made on Wednesday as the evidential picture is continuously developing." *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Iran rebuffs West

TEHRAN—Iran, set to reply on Tuesday to an offer by world powers aimed at defusing a nuclear standoff, has insisted it would not stop enriching uranium as they demand by an Aug. 31 deadline to avoid possible sanctions. Refusing to suspend the work, which Iran says is aimed only at generating electricity but which the West sees as a disguised bid for atom bombs, would be tantamount to rejecting the package of incentives offered in return. But a rebuff would not yet trigger immediate action by the UN Security Council, which passed a resolution on July 31 giving Iran a month to halt enrichment or risk sanctions. *Reuters*

Pyongyang threat

SEOUL—North Korea lashed out Tuesday at ongoing US-South Korean military drills and warned it could take retaliatory action amid renewed concern that the communist nation may be preparing to test a nuclear bomb. The North's latest rhetorical salvo came after US President George W. Bush spoke Monday with Chinese President Hu Jintao about how to persuade the North to return to deadlocked international talks on its nuclear weapons program. The North has set the region on edge with its nuclear ambitions and stoked tensions further last month by test-firing seven missiles, drawing UN Security Council sanctions. *AP*

HK solon blames thugs

HONG KONG—A Hong Kong lawmaker appeared in public on Tuesday for the first time since he was attacked by thugs over the weekend, and he said he believed the assault was linked to his work as a legislator or a lawyer who challenged gangsters. Wearing blue pajamas and sitting in a wheelchair, Albert Ho told reporters at a hospital that he has handled many legal cases that would "jeopardize the interests" of criminal gangs. *AP*

1 million donors

TAIPEI—A campaign to unseat Taiwan's President Chen Shui-bian amid a series of alleged corruption scandals has reached its target of enlisting 1 million donors, organizers said Tuesday. Shih Ming-teh, a former chair of Chen's Democratic Progressive Party, asked members of the public to donate 100 New Taiwan dollars (US$3; euro2.4) each, and said he would start a sit-in protest near the Presidential Office building once 1 million people had signed up. *AP*

CIA leak case

WASHINGTON—The No. 2 state department official met with Washington Post reporter Bob Woodward in mid-June 2003, the same time the reporter has testified that an administration official talked to him about CIA employee Valerie Plame. Official state department calendars, provided to The Associated Press under the Freedom of Information Act, show then-Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage held a one-hour meeting marked "private appointment" with Woodward on June 13, 2003. *AP*

3 Palestinians killed

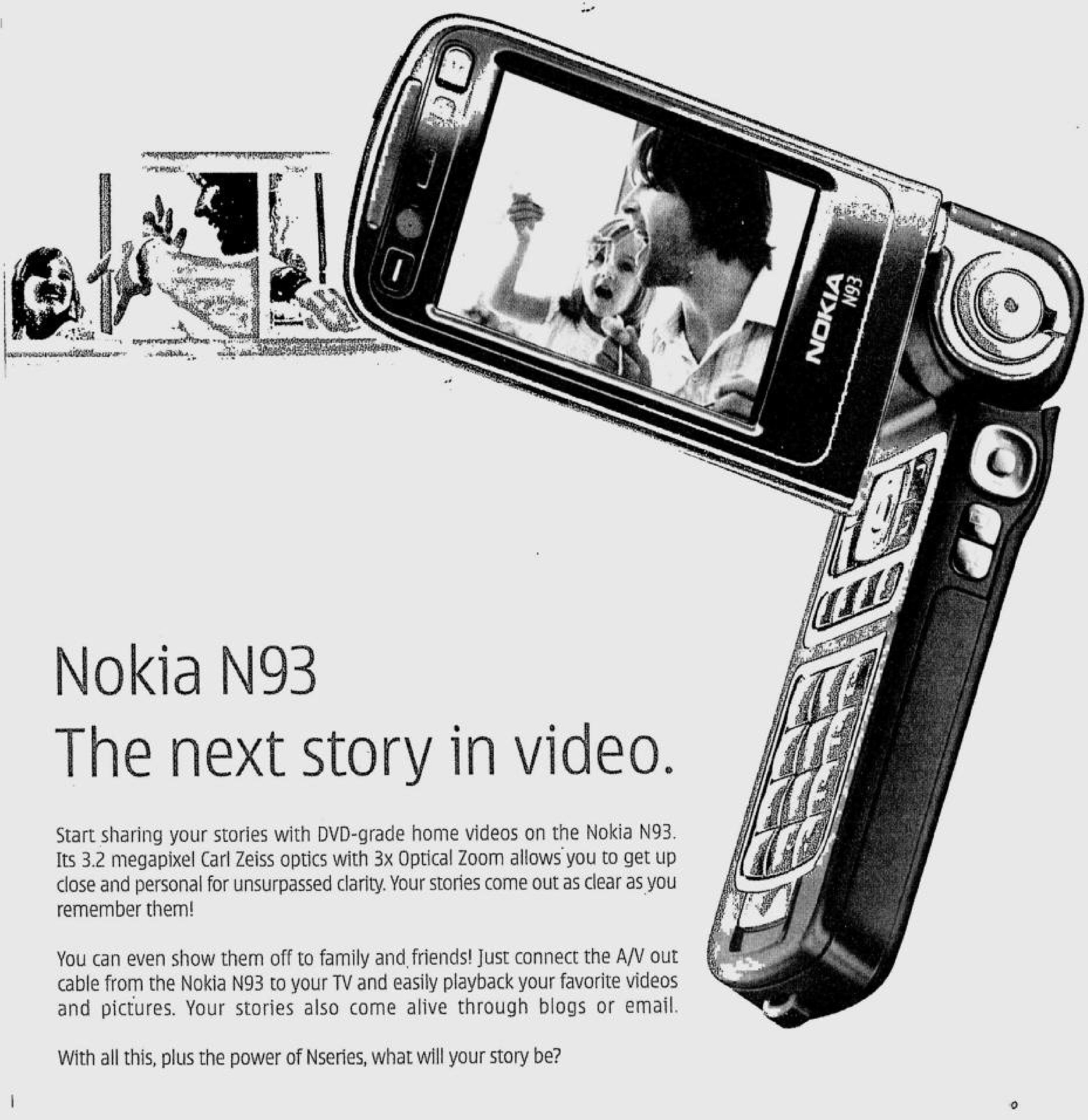
GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip—Israeli troops shot and killed three militants from the Islamic Jihad group near the Israel-Gaza border fence on Tuesday. Palestinian medics discovered the bodies after daybreak near the Kissufim crossing. The Army said soldiers opened fire after spotting what they considered suspicious figures walking near the fence, carrying large bags. *AP*

One-day marriage first

KOLKATA, India—Islamic clerics in eastern India have ruled that a woman divorced by her husband in a fit of drunkenness can remarry him only after she takes another husband for one day. Ershad, a rickshaw puller, uttered the word "talaq," or divorce, three times earlier this month while he was drunk, and when news leaked out in their village in eastern Orissa state, the clerics said they must separate. "The couple had kept it under wraps and continued to stay together but the clerics ruled that since Ershad uttered the word talaq three times, it constituted a divorce," the chief of police said. Under the rules, the woman, who is a mother of three, must marry another man and obtain a divorce from him before she can be reunited with Ershad, the clerics ruled. They said the man the woman marries temporarily must be 70 years of age. *Reuters*

Different way to pedal porn

WELLINGTON—A parade of 30 topless porn stars riding motor bikes down the main street of New Zealand's biggest city will go ahead, officials said Monday. Auckland City Council Monday gave the "Boobs on Bikes" parade the green light, saying there was no legal reason to stop it despite concerns by some councilors that granting it a permit would add legitimacy to the event. *Reuters*



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Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Bush: Iraq war straining America's psyche

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT GEORGE W. Bush says pulling American forces out of Iraq now would be disastrous even though staying there is "straining the psyche of our country."

Bush served notice at a news conference that he would neither change course nor flinch from debate about the unpopular war as he campaigns for Republicans running in November's congressional elections. He even suggested his Republican party mates emphasize national security and the economy as their top campaign issues.

Many opposition Democrats want to leave Iraq "before the job is done," Bush said. "I can't tell you exactly when it's going to be 'done... (but) if we ever give up the desire to help people who live in freedom, we will have lost our soul as a nation, as far as I'm concerned."

Asked whether he considered changing a strategy that is not working, Bush said the question was tactical, not strategic.

"The strategy is to help the Iraqi people achieve their objectives and their dreams, which is a democratic society," Bush said. "The tactics? Now, either you say, yes, it's important we stay there and get it done, or we leave.

"We're not leaving, so long as I'm the president."

Now in its fourth year, the war has taken a heavy toll—more than 2,600 Americans have died and many times more Iraqis have been killed. Last month alone, about 3,500 Iraqis died violently, the highest monthly civilian toll so far. Bush's approval rating has slumped to the lowest point of his presidency, and Republicans are concerned that they could lose control of Congress because of voters' unhappiness.

In response, Democrats said it was time for a new direction, and Bush should begin redeploying troops this year.

"Our soldiers in Iraq should transition to a more limited mission focused on counterterrorism, force protection of US personnel and training and logistical support of Iraqi security forces," House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi said.

Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid said: "Far from spreading freedom and democracy in the Middle East, the Bush administration has watched while extremists grow stronger, Iran goes nuclear, Iraq falls into civil war and oil and gas prices skyrocket. Simply staying the course is unacceptable." *AP*

BUSH REUTERS

Project: Ligtas Guimaras

We in Petron Corporation deeply sympathize with the residents of Guimaras Island who have been affected by the oil spill that resulted from the sinking last August 11 of a vessel that we contracted to carry fuel oil from our refinery in Bataan to Zamboanga.

Petron is doing everything possible to contain the spill and clean up the areas where the oil has contaminated the coastlines and inlets.

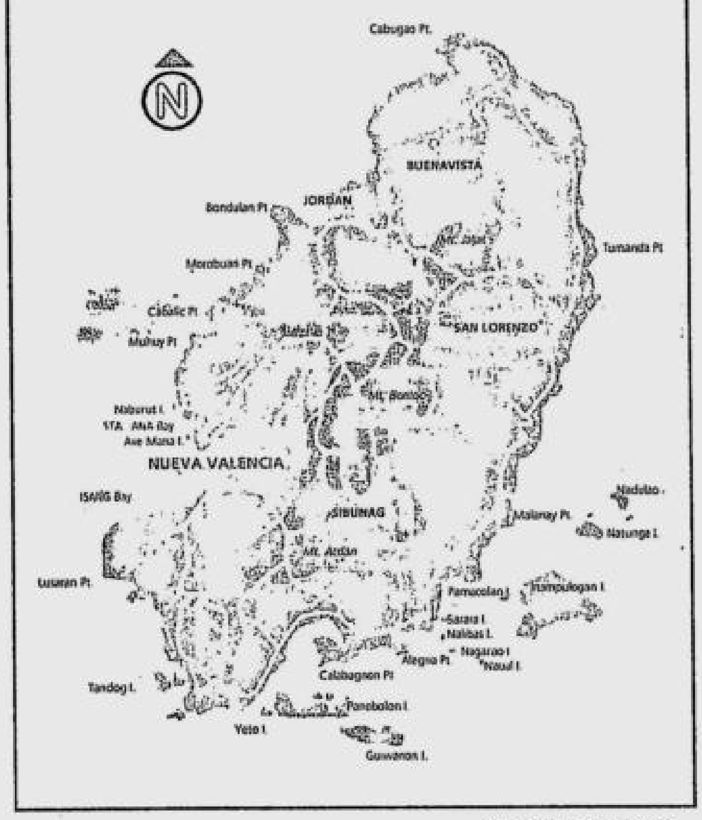
We have deployed oil spill equipment that have been kept in readiness for incidents like this, and we are working hand-in-hand with the Philippine Coast Guard in the oil containment and recovery operations. Our engineers are on the ground, supervising the clean-up efforts.

Given the scope of the task before us, we have brought in international experts to provide technical advice on what must be done to speed up the oil spill containment, recovery, and clean-up process.

At this point, aerial surveys indicate that oil has ceased to leak from the submerged tanker. Nonetheless, we are gravely concerned about the possibility that the oil remaining in the vessel will continue to be released into the environment. We have engaged the services of a professional specialist company that can undertake deep-sea underwater inspection and salvage operations. Our primary goal is to determine whether and how the fuel cargo can be safely retrieved from where it is, under 640 meters of water.

Meanwhile, we are doing our best to help the people of Guimaras cope with this very unfortunate situation. We are working with the National, Regional, Provincial, and Local Disaster Coordinating Councils of Guimaras in mobilizing the affected families for clean-up activities under a "Cash for Work" scheme. We are also contributing to relief efforts in partnership with the provincial and municipal offices of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Petron will remain in Guimaras for as long as it takes to clear its coastal and marine environment of the oil contamination. Beyond this, we will work with local groups for the rehabilitation and restoration of the marine ecosystems that have been damaged by the oil spill.



Guimaras Island

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Man describes chemical attack in Saddam trial

BAGHDAD, IRAQ—DEFENDANTS IN THE new trial of Saddam Hussein insisted on Tuesday that the military was attacking only Iranian troops and Kurdish rebels when it launched the Anfal campaign in the 1980s in which tens of thousands of Kurds were killed.

Their comments came on the second day of the trial, in which Saddam is charged with genocide over the 1987-1988 Operation Anfal, in which troops swept across parts of northern Iraq, destroying villages.

The court heard a survivor of the campaign testify how his village of Balisan was bombed by chemical weapons.

"I saw eight to 12 jets... There was greenish smoke from the bombs. It was as if there was a rotten apple or garlic smell minutes later. People were vomiting... we were blind and screaming. There was no one to rescue us. Just God," Ali Mostafa Hama told the court.

Hama, wearing a traditional Kurdish headdress, said he saw a newborn infant die during the bombardment. "The infant was trying to smell life, but he breathed in the chemicals and died," he said, speaking in Kurdish with an Arabic translator.

Along with Saddam, six defendants—mostly military figures—are on trial in the case. One of them, Saddam's cousin Ali Hassan al-Majid, who led the Anfal campaign, faces genocide charges, while the others are charged with crimes against humanity and war crimes. *AP*

Politician tagged in Iraq kidnapping

BOSTON—REPORTER JILL CARROLL SUSpects an influential Sunni politician or someone from his Baghdad office may have set up her abduction, according to a report by The Christian Science Monitor.

According to Carroll, her captors also told her that Adnan al-Dulaimi, head of the Iraqi Accordance Front, met at least twice with the chief captor, and publicly pleaded for them to let her go.

But Dulaimi denies he was involved with Carroll's kidnapping and says he paid a ransom for her release, the newspaper reported.

Carroll, then a freelance reporter for the Monitor and now a staff member, was abducted 100 meters from Dulaimi's office on Jan. 7, after he failed to show up for an interview. Her Iraqi interpreter, Alan Enwiya, was shot dead.

"Within minutes of my capture, I had suspected Dulaimi," Carroll wrote in the seventh installment of a series about the 82 days she spent in captivity. "The kidnappers were waiting for us when we left his office. They must have known about my appointment ahead of time."

Dulaimi maintains his innocence, saying he secured Carroll's release by secretly paying a $1.5-million ransom. He said he paid $500,000 on the morning that Carroll was released, then made subsequent payments in late June. *AP*

2 heads of hit men fall

BAGHDAD, IRAQ—IRAQI AND US FORCES captured two alleged death squad leaders, including one who is believed to have tortured and killed people in a Shiite mosque, the US military said in a statement received Monday.

One US soldier was killed Monday in a roadside explosion, a day after two Marines and a sailor were killed in combat in the restive Anbar province, the US military command said.

The alleged death squad leaders were captured on Sunday in southern Baghdad during simultaneous raids as part of a new security strategy to stem the Shiite-Sunni sectarian violence being fueled by death squads and torture cells of both communities.

Some 12,000 US and Iraqi forces are being deployed in the capital as part of the security plan, which involves cleaning up one neighborhood after another with cordon and search operations.

Both men "exercise control over all death squad cell activity" in the Sunni districts of Dora and Sahha and the predominantly Shiite Abu D'Shair in Baghdad, the statement said. *AP*

WHAT'S INSIDE

Knights, Lions gun for No. 11, s'final bonus /A22

SPORTS

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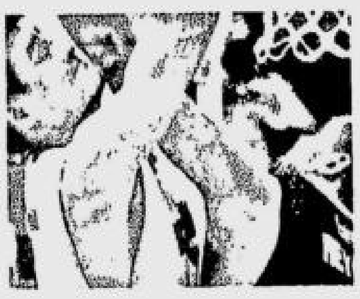
Puerto Rico trips China; Greece, Italy move forward /A24



Zarate, 3 others get 1-year suspensions

GUILTY: Jockey Jeffryl Zarate. PDI PHOTO

By Musong R. Castillo

JEFFRYL ZARATE, THE JOCKEY AT THE center of a weight plates-dropping controversy, was meted a one-year suspension yesterday after the Philracom's board of directors rejected his explanation following his disputed ride in a big race last Sunday.

The board said they found inconsistencies in the statement of Zarate, a former Class A rider. The jockey, it said, could also not explain how some handicap weight plates dropped off his mount, Slatkis, during the race at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite.

Philracom chair Florencio Fianza, a retired police general, handed down the decision after hearing the side of Zarate, groom Noel Caneso and assistant handlers Bryan Serrano and Mario Lagoz.

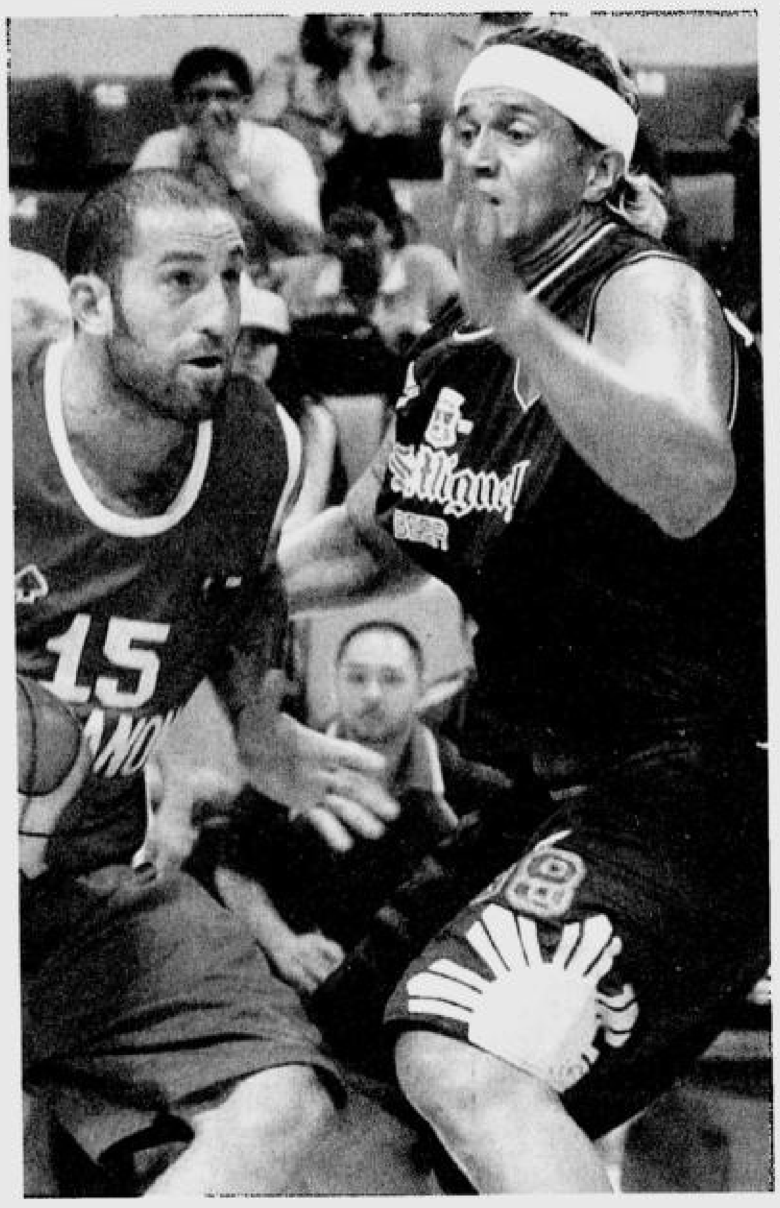
Caneso, Serrano and Lagoz also drew the same sanction from the Philracom, which said that "shenanigans will not be tolerated" in the racing industry.

Zarate steered the heavily favored Slatkis to a close second to Luxardo in the P600,000 Imported Stakes Series, unaware that he was being watched by field officers who got an anonymous tip before the start of the racing day.

"Basically, we found weaknesses in the sequencing of events as he (Zarate) told them," Fianza told the INQUIRER. "He appeared to be very sure of himself, but we found him very hard to believe.

A total of 500 grams was missing when Zarate weighed in after the race. It was at this time when the field officers jumped on Caneso, who was caught red-handed with one of the plates.

Nationals pummel Australian all-stars



TALK 'N Text superstar Asi Taulava (seen in file photo of the RP game against Lebanon) uses his hulking frame and dominating presence to force the Darwin All-Stars to focus their defense on him—and leave gunners like Dondon Hontiveros and Renren Ritualo with free looks at the basket. The San Miguel Beer-RP Team cruised to its third straight win in the Brunei tournament. RYAN LIM

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN—ASI TAULAVA PAtrolled the lanes with authority as the San Miguel-RP Team cruised past the Darwin All-Stars, 99-84, in the 6th Shell Rimula Brunei Cup yesterday at the National Indoor Stadium here.

Focusing too much on the 6-foot-9 Taulava, the Darwin All-Stars took Dondon Hontiveros and Renren Ritualo for granted and the pair responded by relentlessly puncturing the hoops from afar to help the country score its third straight win.

Unstoppable in the paint, Taulava drew most of the attention as the defense collapsed on him, leaving snipers Hontiveros and Ritualo to go on a shooting spree.

RP coach Chot Reyes, however, attributed the win to the team's dominance in the shaded area and rapid ball movement.

"We just wanted to control the paint," said Reyes. "But if we want to win this tournament, it has to be through defense and ball movement."

The defending champion in the six-team tournament, the unbeaten San Miguel-RP Team dictated the tempo with an 8-0 opening blast. And with Taulava pulling down rebounds with ease, Team Pilipinas zoomed to a 21-9 cushion by the end of the first period.

The Australians narrowed the gap midway in the second quarter following an eight-point run and came to within 41-37 at halftime, but that was the closest they could get.

By the end of the third period, the Philippines was already in cruise control, padding the lead to 69-57 and forcing the Australians to just give up. Darwin's key players were already resting on the bench at that point.

"We we're constantly changing our defensive tactics to keep the other team off-balanced," said Reyes, whose deputy, Aboy Castro, held the fort for the Filipinos during the first two games.

With Castro calling the shots, Team Pilipinas trounced the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia All-Stars and the South Korean-based SK Knights.

In the other match, Barangay Ginebra made a smashing debut by whipping the Jordan All-Stars, 82-70.

SLR cuts Williams offer to 3 years

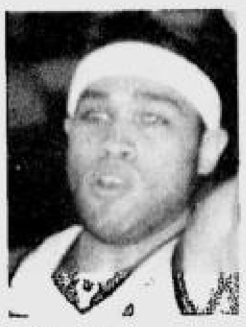
By June Navarro

THE OFFER WAS GOOD BUT IT DIDN'T LAST.

Sta. Lucia Realty was forced to revise its five-year proposal to Kelly Williams after the Philippine Basketball Association notified the team of league restrictions on lengthy player contracts.

From five years, the Realtors have now downgraded their offer to three years, the maximum contract a player could receive after the league lowered the team and player salary cap a few years back.

Williams, this year's No. 1 overall pick, now has a standing offer of three years which could give him a maximum rookie monthly pay of P150,000, P225,000 on his sophomore year and P337,500 on the final season of the contract.



WILLIAMS

The estimated worth of the contract is P8.5 million, exclusive of the bonuses that Williams is bound to receive.

"We can't give a contract more than three years," said PBA commissioner Noli Eala. "It was approved by the PBA board to regulate offer sheets and unnecessary bidding of services using the extended number of years."

When Eala sat down as commissioner in 2003, a gentleman's agreement was forged among the teams to limit player contracts to three years at the maximum. It came at a time when the league and the teams were cutting down on operational expenses.

After drafting the 6-foot-5 Williams, the Realtors dangled a five-year offer that would pay the Oakland University alum P17 million in salaries.

Meanwhile, the PBA ordered rookie Joseph Yeo of Coca-Cola to make himself available for the league's community programs for the next three months.

Eala penalized Yeo for bullying Red Bull's Enrico Villanueva with a clothesline during the PBA-sanctioned Ateneo-La Salle Dream Game at the Araneta Coliseum last December.

"Such infraction under PBA rules was serious," said Eala, who lowered the sanction from suspension to community service. "It's an unsportsmanlike act unworthy of a professional player."

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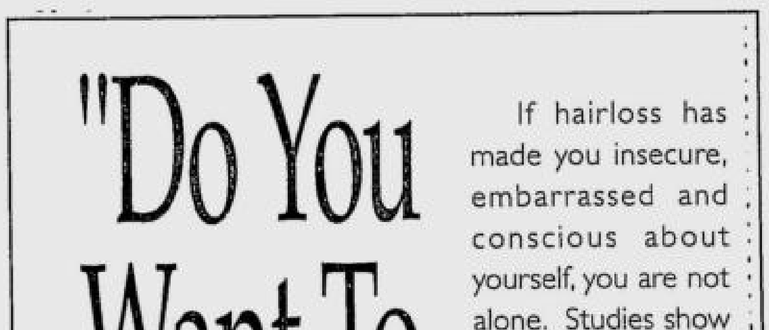
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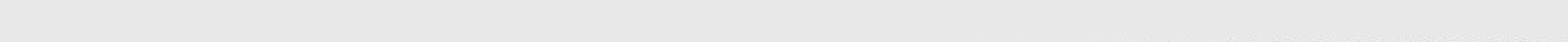


Team Zayco Hermanos drove a total of 1,400.4 kms. beating the 1,114 km. record set by Pocholo Ramirez on one full tank of Petron Xtra Unleaded.

*The Car Awards Group, Inc. and the Automobile Association Philippines are the official observers of the Petron Xtra Mile Challenge. Team Zayco Hermanos used a 1300 automatic transmission Honda Jazz.

Lifters grab 30 golds in Asian tilt

THE PHILIPPINES BAGGED 30 GOLD medals in the 2006 Asian Bench Press Championships held over the weekend at the Bayview Park Hotel ballroom.

Erlina Pecante, Leonora Catalina Oca and Renato Dio led the successful campaign of the 65-member RP contingent and were named best lifters in their respective divisions.

Pecante ruled the women's 82.5kg Master 1 class with a new Asian record of 110 kg. Oca topped the women's 52kg Master 2 division in 70 kg while Dio lifted 170 kg to win the men's 82.5kg Master 2 category.

"It was a successful campaign because we were able to surpass our target of 20 gold medals," said Powerlifting Association of the Philippines president Nick Cabalza in yesterday's PSA Forum at the Pantalan Restaurant. "Our athletes trained so hard to win medals for the country."

Cabalza was accompanied by gold medalists Richie Rosales, Audrey Ortiz and Dio.

Rosales won the men's 82.5kg open with a new RP record of 205kg. He erased the old mark of 182.5 kg set by Ed Antonio during the National Open in May.

Ortiz, a 38-year-old businesswoman and a mother of two, lifted 80 kg to win the gold in the women's 67.5kg. open class in her first international stint.

Adeline Dumapong, bronze medalist in the 2000 Sydney Paralympic Games, lifted 120 kg to beat Sampa Guha of India for the gold in the women's 90+kg.

RP boxing coach gunned down

By Jocelyn R. Uy

KNOWN FOR HIS COOL DEMEANOR ON AND off the ring, Alexander Arroyo, an official of the national amateur boxing team, met a sudden and brutal death before dawn yesterday in Pasay City.

Arroyo, a member of the Philippine National Police assigned at the Headquarters Support Group in Camp Crame, was gunned down by a man who introduced himself as a policeman.

The death of Arroyo, 44, a member of the national coaching staff headed by Pat Gaspi, came as a shock to Manny T. Lopez, president of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines.

Arroyo, who sustained five gunshot wounds, was rushed to the Manila Adventist Medical Center where he was declared dead on arrival, said case investigator PO3 Joel Landicho.

Arroyo's companion, Senior Insp. Praxides Dayao Jr. of the Firearms and Explosives Division in Camp Crame, was wounded in the left leg.

The shooting happened while they were on their way to the Police Community Precinct-5 with the suspect, Ranulfo Anaricio, at 3 a.m.

According to Dayao, Anaricio allegedly was able to disarm Dayao and fired several times at him and Arroyo on D. Jorge Street.

The police have yet to arrest the suspect.

Knights, Lions gun for No.11, s'final bonus

DEFENDING CHAMPION Letran and San Beda try to take one step into the twice-to-beat domain when they take on separate rivals today in the NCAA men's basketball at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Victories by the co-leaders, which hold 10-win, 1-loss slates, would assure them of at least a tie for the coveted incentive in the semifinals.

The Knights go up against the Mapua Cardinals at 2 p.m. before the Red Lions collide with the PCU Dolphins at 4 p.m.

But that won't be easy as Letran and San Beda are taking on squads raring to better their standings in the elimination round.

The Knights, however, have the momentum for having beaten the Cardinals in the first round, 74-71.

Mapua coach Horacio Lim said they have made adjustments after that game and it's up to his boys to execute the plans he made on the floor.

"We don't want to waste our chance, we need this win to make the semifinals," said Lim, whose charges need only to win one of their last three assignments to reach the semifinals and quash the hopes of San Sebastian and Perpetual Help.

Other than the twice-to-beat incentive, the Red Lions are raring to get back at the Dolphins, who beat them in the first round.

That time, the Red Lions led most of the way only to tumble at crunch time and lose, 66-70. They missed coach Koy Banal, who had to rush to Purefoods' game in the PBA Finals as one of the Giants' assistant coaches.

San Beda has won all its nine games after that shocker. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

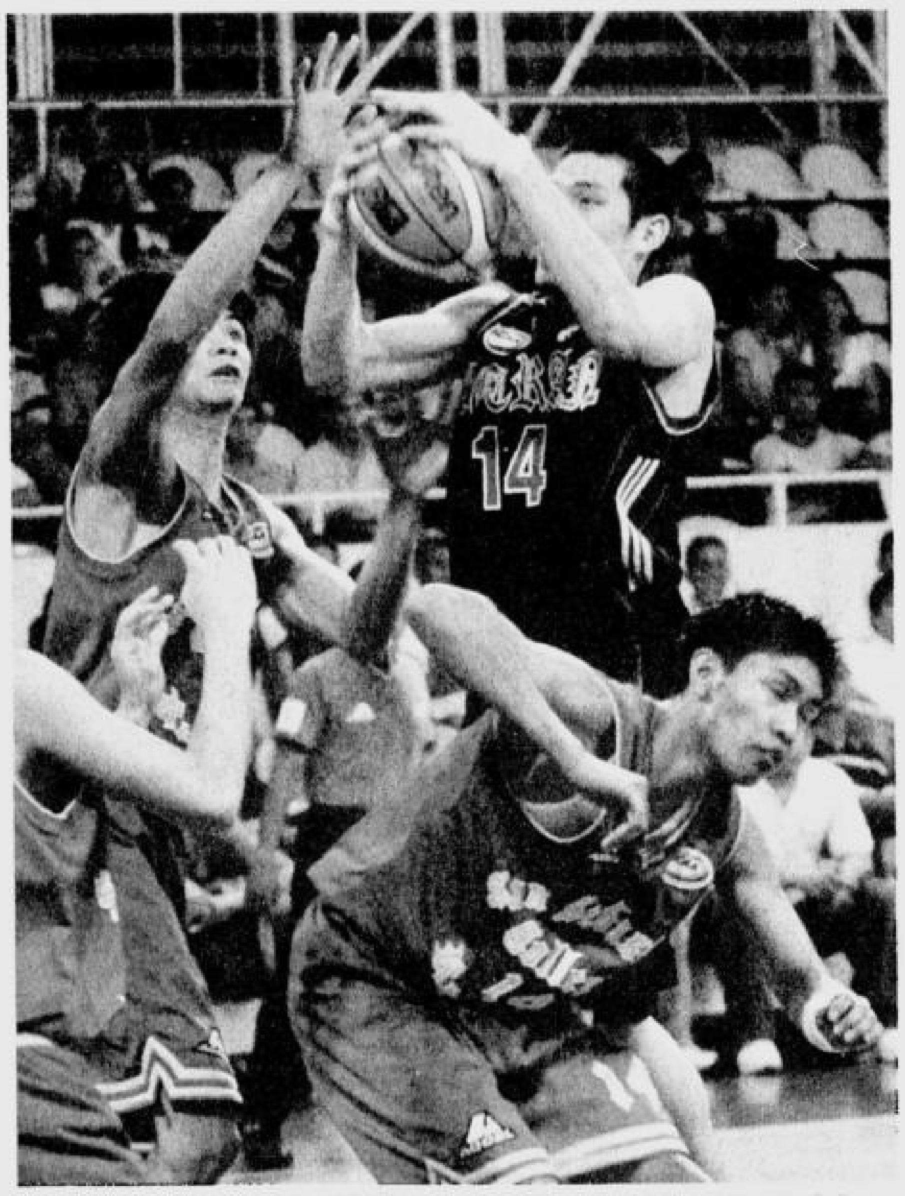
STANDINGS	W	L
*Letran	10	1
*San Beda	10	1
*PCU	8	3
Mapua	6	5
Perpetual	4	8
S. Sebastian	4	8
Jose Rizal	3	9
St. Benilde	1	11

*Advanced to Final Four

GAMES TODAY (*Ninoy Aquino Stadium*)

2 p.m.—Letran vs MIT (Srs)

4 p.m.—SBC vs PCU (Srs/Jrs)


LETRAN'S Micheal Realista (14) disputes the rebound with San Sebastian's Dave Najorda and Jason Ballesteros in a recent NCAA game. RYAN LIM

Pacquiao provides Morales the escape route

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

REX "WAKEE" SALUD WAS STILL AT A loss yesterday. The Cebu-based boxing manager swore he could not understand why Manny Pacquiao had suddenly changed his mind.

Salud called Pacquiao's decision allowing Erik Morales to weigh as much as 132 lb for their forthcoming super featherweight match unusual, if not exactly abnormal.

In the first place, Pacquiao had already stood pat and rejected earlier offers for him to clash with the 30-year-old Morales at a catch-weight, preferably 132 lb, instead of the original limit stipulated in the rematch clause.

For the record, Pacquiao and Morales had split their first two bouts, which were both fought at the official 130-lb super featherweight limit.

"I was telling him not to bend back, he should insist on 130 lb," Salud told the INQUIRER from Cebu. "It's his decision, I can't do anything anymore."

* * *

No, it does not mean Pacquiao cannot beat Morales if the Mexican pays the fine ($500,000 per pound) and reports for the weigh-in at, say, 132 lb.

But the Pacquiao turnaround could be equal to squandering a winning line in chess. It's akin to pulling back after having composed a mating position.

Yes, Morales, big and puffy-faced in his latest photo, had been bragging he would come in at the 130-lb limit for the third match of his colorful rivalry with Pacquiao.

But there's a strong likelihood the wily Mexican would eventually agree to pay the fine and report for the showdown over the original limit.

"Yes, Morales could make it at 130, but only if they cut both his legs off," exclaimed Rafael Morales, manager of Oscar Larios, after his ward was beaten by Pacquiao at the Big Dome on July 2.

That, itself, could be a little exaggerated, but it aptly essayed the assorted agonies Morales had had to bear for his previous 130-lb clash with Pacquiao.

* * *

For the record, Morales had been insisting that he got stopped by Pacquiao in March only because he was not in his best physical shape.

Of course, Morales had trained extra hard for that second encounter with Pacquiao.

But what clearly caused his on-fight deficiencies was his excess poundage.

He finally reported for the weigh-in at the stipulated limit. But he could not do combat at a hundred percent after having had to keep a strict diet. He also had to stay hungry and drained while killing himself in training.

Meanwhile, Pacquiao enjoyed the luxury of full meals in the run-up to that second encounter with the Mexican ring great.

Who knows, Morales may again resort to mumbo-jumbo, maybe in the form of super weight-loss pills, and breeze past the weighing scales at 130 lb in November.

But what could stop his handlers, headed by Bob Arum, from opting to pay the $1 million fine to let Morales check in at 132 lb?

* * *

No need to ask anymore what magic those two extra pounds, once allowed, would work.

Pacquiao should've known better. He himself got stopped and lost his WBC flyweight title in Thailand in 1999 after failing to make the 112-lb limit.

In prizefighting, the weighing scales could, at times, prove deadlier than the actual opponent.

That said, Pacquiao should've at least looked back to his previous Morales fight when he savored the role of a masterly bullfighter after the Mexican had to check in unusually tame and soft.

The damning regimen Morales had had to undergo in the run-up to the weigh-in could be equal to the lancing, the blood-letting suffered by a bull as this is softened and prepared by the *picador* for the featured matador.

Yes, Pacquiao managed to stay in full control last time because he had a physically inferior opponent in the drained Morales.

But what could stop Morales from reassuming the favored role of bullfighter once he reports in full splendor for the third encounter with Pacquiao?

Morales, if you've forgotten, had done exactly that when he manhandled Pacquiao in March 2005.

Williams breaks the ice

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

AS I WRITE THIS, Kelly Williams, the PBA's No. 1 amateur pick for the season, should be signing a three-year contract with the team that drafted him—Sta. Lucia Realty—at the Edsa Plaza Hotel in Mandaluyong City.

The contract will have all the "maximums" and the perks, so I heard.

* * *

Amid nasty reports about Williams' possible season sit-out, Sta. Lucia governor Buddy Encarnado admits there had been some anxious moments before the actual draft last Sunday.

In fact, the atmosphere was also tense even after the draft and when the Realtors proceeded to a Chinese restaurant along C-5 Road for dinner.

Buddy, coach Alfrancis Chua and his staff, the players, and rookies Mark Isip and Mark Magsumbol were already in the restaurant but Kelly and his Filipino mother could not be accounted for.

When assistant coach Boyet Fernandez, who was tasked to escort the Williamses to the venue, showed up alone, everyone started kidding him. Behind the jokes and laughter, though, were serious doubts.

The hecklers said that perhaps Kelly shook off his escort so he could drop by another ballclub's celebration.

Dinner started and ended, but still no Kelly. Buddy did not have the appetite to eat. Would Kelly ever show up, everyone wondered.

* * *

Finally, after what seemed like a lifetime, a commotion outside the function room caught everyone's attention.

It was Kelly and his entourage—his mother, his pretty girlfriend and his manager Alex Compton.

Buddy's eyes lit up, the group came alive.

I swear I even heard some applause.

Soon a separate negotiation table was set up. I got a glimpse of Kelly's contract, but all I could make out were blurred figures. I didn't have time to run for my reading glasses.

Buddy, the two SLR lawyers, Ariel Magno and Lito Tapel, and Kelly's entourage took their seats around the table. There was no room for haggling.

* * *

Two days later, I managed to have a chat with Buddy again.

Everything had gone well, he said. The contract was to be signed by the parties Tuesday afternoon.

Even the matter of the sit-out had been cleared. Kelly had denied ever making a statement to the press that he would sit out the season if he was drafted by Sta. Lucia.

Buddy said he believed the cager.

After meeting Kelly and his mom up close, Buddy was certain they were not the type of people who would make such nasty statements.

Buddy found the Williamses very sincere, decent people. "They're (born-again) Christians," he said.

* * *

With Kelly, Buddy feels he has hit the jackpot.

"It's like having an import. He can play all five positions. Most important of all, he has a very positive attitude. *Ang ganda ng ugali niya*, he's so easy to deal with," Buddy said, after the Realtors' initial practice with the rookies the other day.

"But I thought you preferred home-growns to Fil-Ams?" I asked. "What happened to this conviction?"

"Hey, I'm only against 'Fil-shams' (foreign players with fake Filipino roots—Ed), not Fil-Ams," Buddy replied.

* * *

Harbour Centre's Mikee Romero was as excited as the drafters and the draftees on draft day.

"Three of my players were among the top five picks—Joseph Yeo, LA Tenorio and Gabby Espinas—while two others—Magnum Membrere and Christian Luanzon—were drafted in the second round. I'm so happy for them," said Mikee, who had just arrived from China where he had the chance to forge a partnership with top NBA officials for a youth development program.

Mikee is looking to produce the first-ever Filipino NBA cager.

Top-speed strip duels set at BRC

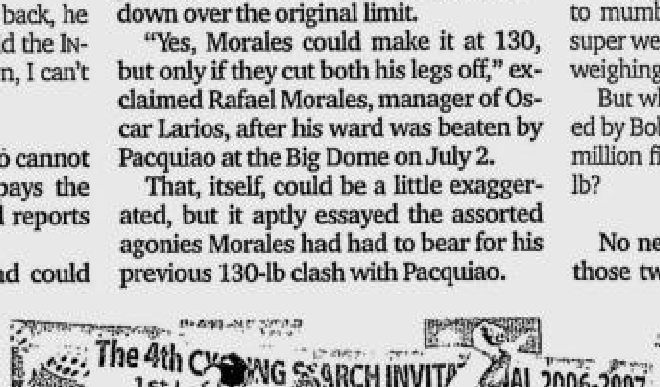
THE BATTLE FOR SPEED AND prestige resumes this Saturday when the 2006 Red Horse National Drag Racing Championships holds its fifth leg at the Drag Strip of the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario town.

All eyes will be on Dave Jota of Blanche Racing and Jonathan Tiu of Team Ere who are locked in a tight contest for the top Quick 8 title.

BRC drag racing director Fil Gulfin urged Pro class drivers to report in at 7 a.m. for the resumption of their fourth-leg race, which was washed out by heavy rains.

The drivers will be given a 30-minute practice time before the actual race. The competition is sponsored by Red Horse Beer, San Miguel Corp. and supported by Pilipinas Shell, Denso, Yokohama, Casino Filipino and Sparco.

For now, it's a tight three-way battle for the Pro class crown among Marvin Suzara, Conrado Estrada and Jose Uy who all tote 15 points each.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1st Le[illegible] [illegible]ezo[illegible] [illegible]ity Criteri
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QUICKEST FOUR: The category winners in the recent 4th Cycling Search Invitational Criterium celebrate at the podium after the awarding ceremony at the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City. From left, Enrique Domingo (Masters category, 36-above), Marita Lucas (Women, Elite division), Rodolfo Malangsa (Open-Pro category) and Stephen Romaquin (Elite category).

Pilipinas Basketball elects Atienza prexy

COLLEGIATE LEAGUE EXECutive Bernie Atienza has been elected president of Pilipinas Basketball, the newly formed cage body sanctioned by the Philippine Olympic Committee to represent the country in international tourneys.

Atienza, the NCAA management committee chair and athletic director of St. Benilde, was voted unanimously during the group's elections yesterday at the Rockwell in Makati.

Ateneo's Jun Capistrano was elected vice president. Also elected were Mikee Romero of Harbour Center as treasurer and Tommy Ong and Melvin Mendoza as assistant treasurer and corporate secretary, respectively. Marc Anthony Reyes

SPORTSWATCH

Miriam, 2 other fives still unbeaten

MIRIAM COLLEGE, ST. BENILDE AND LYCEUM KEPT THEIR UNBEATEN slates Monday in the WNCAA senior basketball tournament at the EAC gym. Miriam beat Rizal Tech U in overtime, 70-67, to lead Group B with a 5-0 record. St. Benilde raised its Group A mark to 4-0 after besting San Beda-Alabang, 81-47, while Lyceum downed St. Scholastica, 81-40. In other games, World Citi Colleges (3-1) beat Emilio Aguinaldo College, 73-68, in Group B while Centro Escolar dealt Philippine Women's University a 70-43 rout.

Fil-Am Donaire vies for world title Oct. 7

FILIPINO-AMERICAN GLENN DONAIRE OF GEN. SANTOS CITY CHALlenges IBF and IBO flyweight king Vic Darchinyan in a 12-round battle on Oct. 7 at the Mandalay Bay hotel in Las Vegas. This was confirmed yesterday by promoter Gary Shaw in an interview with ESPN's Dan Rafael. The fight will serve as an undercard to the rubber-match between Diego "Chico" Corrales and former Olympic gold medalist and world champion Joel Casamayor. The 26-year-old Donaire (16-2-1, 9 KOs) holds the NABA flyweight and WBO NABO flyweight crowns. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*

Salvador wins, keeps GM hopes alive

FILIPINO INTERNATIONAL MASTER ROLAND SALVADOR BOUNCED BACK in contention by trouncing Federico Rosin of Italy on Monday in the third round of an international chess meet in Bratto, Italy. The 24-year-old native of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan, subdued Luca Tramalloni in the opener but yielded to Ivan Tomba in the second round. Salvador, fresh off his victory in the 10th Genova Open last week, needs to earn a GM result to become a GM. The leaders with 4.0 points each are top seed GM Vladimir Epishin, GM Gyula Sax, GM Erald Dervishi and No.4 GM Milan Drasko. *NM Marlon Bernardino*

SJC stagfest second round today

THE SECOND ROUND OF THE "RAMBULAN" 5-STAG DERBY AMONG THE country's upcoming gamefowl breeders gets going at 5 p.m. today at the San Juan Coliseum with 65 matches on tap. Eleven participants in the derby presented by Sagupaan Complexor 3000 took the early lead in Monday's round, and each one of them received a bonus prize of P18,000. They are Nono San Pablo, Louie Cua and Dorie Du, Arman Santos, AT Carlos, Allan Chan and Col. Del Mundo. Promoter Ronnie Lacsina said breeders may still submit an entry on Aug. 25 or 28. For inquiries, call 0918-9001411, 725-5369 or 725-6563.

Tagaytay City keeps Merdeka supremacy

ANTONIO

THEY WERE TESTED TO THE hilt, but in the end the Tagaytay City wood pushers proved superior in the 2006 Merdeka Chess Team Open Rapid Championship in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, over the weekend.

For winning the tournament three straight years, Tagaytay, led by Grandmasters Joey Antonio and Nelson Mariano, get permanent possession of the champion's trophy, which fellow Philippine entry Cantilan nearly succeeded to wrest away.

Tagaytay, which also included Ronald Llavanes and Truman Hernaez and team captain Willie Abalos, wound up with 26.5 points at the end of the nine-round Swiss System event and bested Cantilan, also with 26.5 points, after the tiebreak was applied.

"Once again, our chess players proved that we are at par with the best in the region," said Tagaytay City Mayor Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino, also the secretary general of the National Chess Federation of the Philippines. "My hats off to them for a job well done.

Cantilan, a team backed by NCFP president and Surigao Rep. Prospero "Butch" Pichay Jr., edged Vietnam A (26.0).

Another team backed by Rep. Pichay, the IM Oliver Dimakiling-led Surigao del Sur, ended up fourth with 25.5 points.

GM Mark Paragua's Filway Marketing team finished 10th while Manila settled for 26th place among 64 competing teams

After collecting 20.5 points in six rounds, Tagaytay City yielded the next round to Vietnam, 1-3, but won the last two rounds against Ina Bangkit (Indonesia), 3-1; and Penang State Team (Malaysia), 2.5-1.5.

Cantilan, meanwhile, downed Surigao del Sur, 2.5-1.5, in the seventh round; crushed Pawn Stars (Singapore) in the eighth; and trounced Tarakan, Indonesia, 3.0-0.5, in the final round.

"Our chess players showed that through team work, we could achieve great things," said Pichay. "I'm proud of them." *NM Marlon Bernardino*

Langit-Lucas 3rd in triathlon

THE TANDEM OF LEA COLINE LANGIT and Mimi Lucas finished third in the U-23 division in the recent 15th Asian Triathlon Championship in Jiayuguan, China.

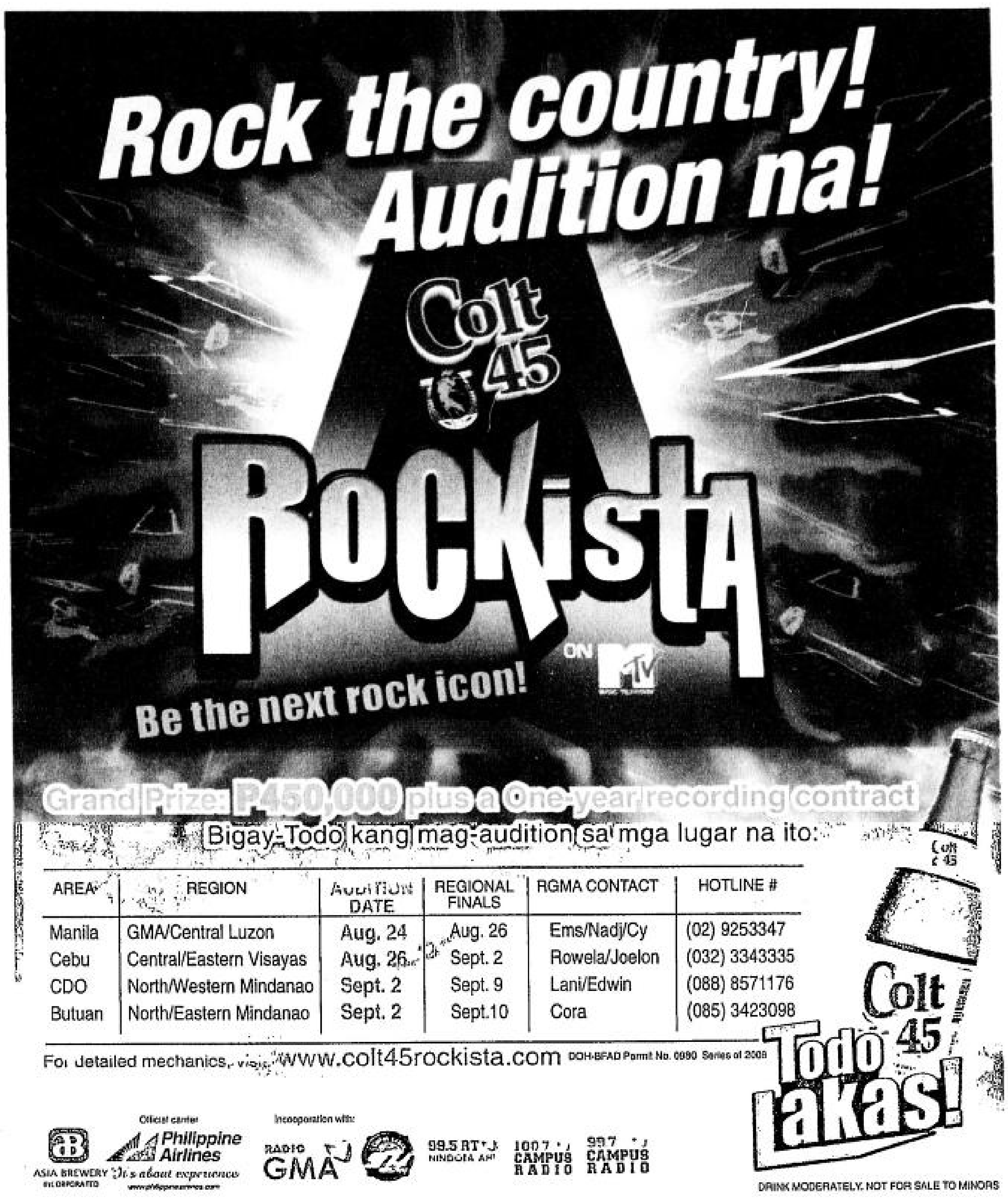
Langit bucked a bike crash going into the run leg to submit a new personal best time of 2:22.34, good for 12th, while Lucas emerged 15th with her time of 2:26.14 in their division.

Japanese Keiko Tanaka and compatriot Juri Ide emerged champions while Chinese Zhang Hanmei and Wang Yi took second place in the female U-23 group.

With her performance, Langit, a student of De La Salle University, is expected to better her 7th ranking among Asia's female triathletes.

Kim Mangrobang also did well in the girls' sprint division as she improved by two minutes her personal record, clocking 1:10.05 which was good for 13th place.

The Triathlon Association of the Philippines also set a three-man team outfitted by Speedo, with national triathlon head coach Peter Gonzales and Bacolod's Noel Salvador placing in the top 20 of the men's elite division won by Japanese Hirokatsu Tayama. Mikki Quilala clocked 2:11.22 and came ahead of last year's SEA Games gold medalist Cheng Jing Hean in the U-23 men's side.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CDO	North/Western Mindanao	Sept. 2	Sept. 9	Lani/Edwin	(088) 8571176
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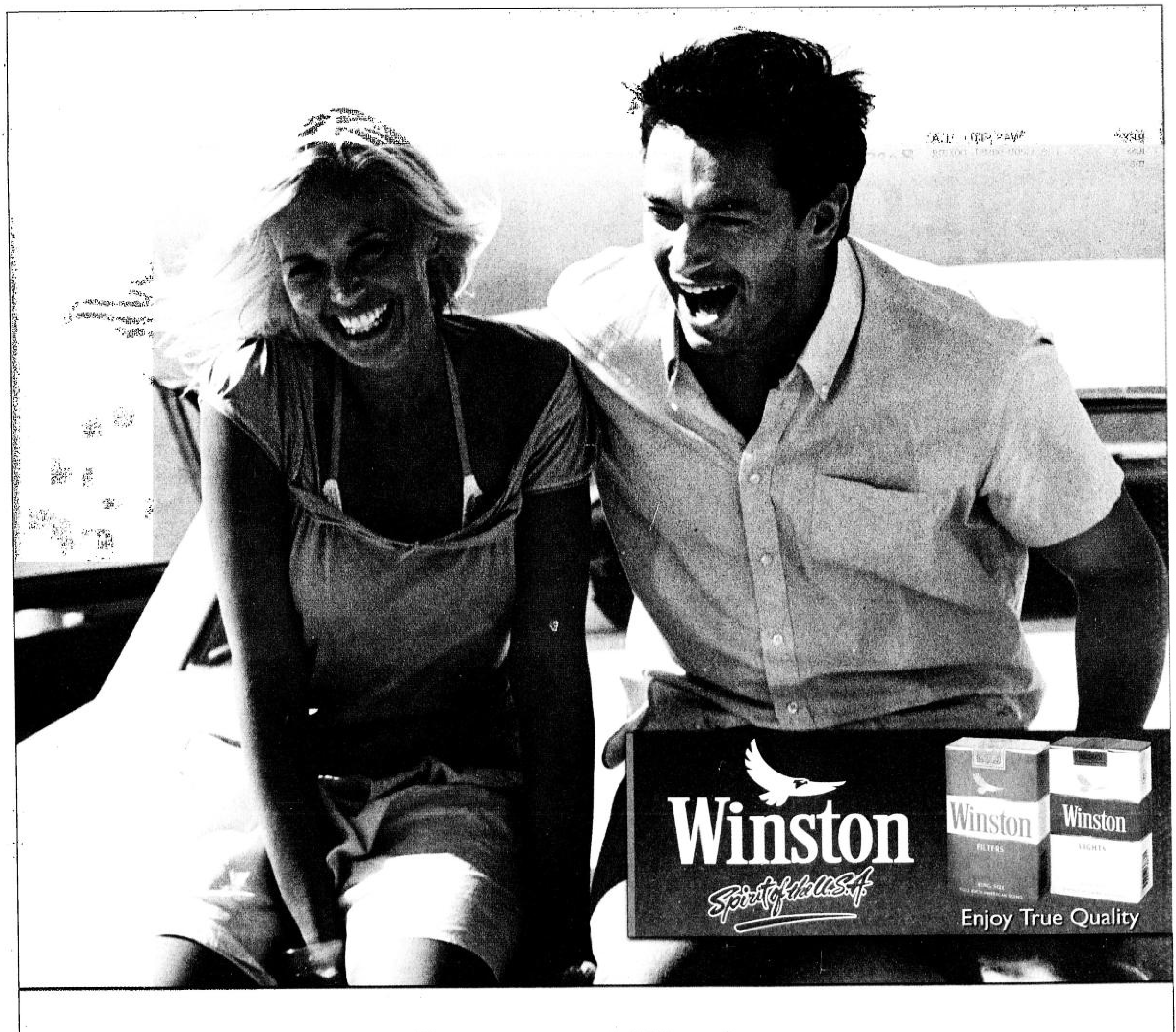

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WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS ON TV
3:30 p.m.—Australia vs Lithuania (Solar Sports)
7 p.m.—USA vs Italy (Solar Sports/RPN 9)

SPORTS

Puerto Rico trips China

CHINA'S Yao Ming underlines yet another good offensive night with a slam dunk off Puerto Rico's Angelo Reyes. His efforts, however, fell short as the Asian heavyweights lost. AFP

Asian powerhouse nears exit; Greece, Italy move forward

SAPPORO, JAPAN—CHINA'S HOPES OF PROGRESSING at the world basketball championship suffered a huge blow with a 90-87 overtime loss to Puerto Rico on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Olympic silver medalists Italy booked a spot in the last 16 and European champions Greece virtually assured they would join them as both teams produced comeback wins in Japan.

Houston Rockets center Yao Ming scored 29 points but fouled out with almost five minutes left in a bad-tempered Group D game in Sapporo.

China squandered a 10-point lead in the fourth quarter to fall to their third defeat and must beat Senegal and Slovenia in their remaining games to have any chance of survival.

"It's difficult to talk after losing like that," China's Lithuanian coach Jonas Kazlauskas told reporters. "We had some very bad minutes. We relaxed too much. That killed us.

"It will be very difficult now," acknowledged Kazlauskas, whose team lost to Italy and the United States in their first two games.

Puerto Rico moved closer to the last 16 with Elias Ayuso scoring 27 points and Carlos Arroyo 25 to secure a second win for the Central American squad.

Italy proved more clinical down the stretch as they beat winless Senegal, 64-56, for their third straight win in Group D.

Matteo Soragna finished with 15 points and Marco Mordente added 14 for Italy, who outscored Senegal, 22-11, in the decisive fourth quarter.

Greece continued their winning run in Group C when guard Nikos Zisis landed a three-pointer one second before the buzzer to give Greece a 72-69 win over Australia.

The Boomers, who had led by three points with 19 seconds left, fell to 1-2.

Meanwhile, Lithuania finally drew a line under their nightmare start to the 24-team tournament by pulverizing Qatar, 106-65.

Ksystof Lavrinovic hit 20 points to lead five Lithuania players in double figures in a blowout win that left Qatar on the brink of elimination.

Lithuania play Australia and Brazil in their remaining two games. The knockout stage begins in Saitama on Saturday.

The United States was playing Slovenia at presstime. *Reuters*

UPSET GIRL
Ana Ivanovic, of Serbia, holds the winner's trophy after beating the favored—and fan favorite—Martina Hingis, of Switzerland, 6-2, 6-3, during final play at the Rogers Cup tennis in Montreal. AP

Tiger keeps getting better

MEDINAH, ILLINOIS—ALL SIGNS POINT TOward Tiger Woods being ready to go on another roll. His victory in the PGA Championship was his third straight on the PGA Tour, the fourth time he has put together such a winning streak. Two of them were majors, and he has played his last three tournaments in 60 under par. Next up is Firestone, where he already has won four times and is the defending champion. But perhaps the scariest aspect of Woods' five-shot victory at Medinah for his 12th major is that he is nothing like the player who survived a scare from Sergio Garcia seven years earlier. The new Tiger might be even better. And it has more to do with the space between his ears than whatever is going on with his swing. "If you compare it to how I was here in '99 versus how I am in 2006, it's just a better understanding of how to get more out of my round and how to handle the emotions better," Woods said Sunday evening. It's easy to define his dominance by numbers alone. Still one week away from his 10th anniversary as a professional, Woods already has won 51 times to tie Billy Casper for sixth on the all-time PGA Tour chart. He has won 12 of his 40 majors since turning pro, a staggering rate of 30 percent. That puts him two-thirds of the way toward the 18 majors Jack Nicklaus won. *AP*

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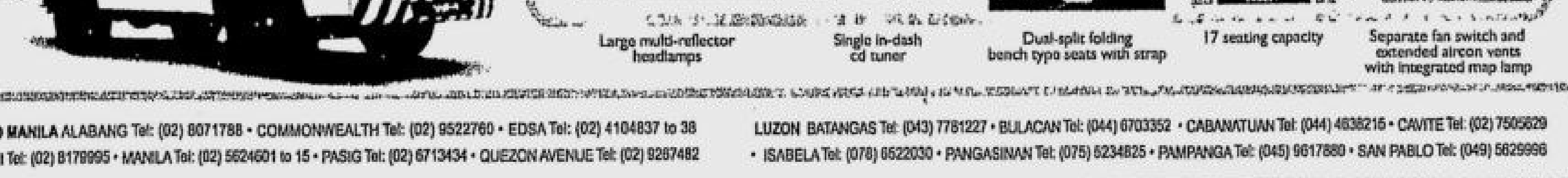
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COA Releases Financial Reports of LGUs

TO PROMOTE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTability, the Commission on Audit releases the financial reports of local government units nationwide. The reports on pages B8 & B9 are a partial release on 79 provinces, 117 cities and 285 municipalities of the NCR, CAR, Regions 1 and 2.

These reports were generated using the New Government Accounting System (NGAS) which COA developed to ensure timely and accurate reports.

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Meralco disputes ₱7-B claim of Transco

MALAYSIAN Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi (third, from left) walks with Asean economic ministers after opening the Asean Economic Ministers meeting in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday. (From left) Laos' Nam Viyaketh, Indonesia's Mari Elka Pangestu, Myanmar's U Soe Tha, Malaysia's Rafidah Aziz and the Philippines Peter Favila. REUTERS

Asean to accelerate economic community plan by 5 years

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA—Southeast Asian nations agreed to accelerate plans to turn the region into a single economic community by five years to 2015 to battle competition from China and India, the bloc's secretary general said yesterday.

"We all agreed that we should move in that direction," Ong Keng Yong told reporters on the sidelines of an Association of Southeast Asian Nations trade meeting.

Ong said the 10-member grouping had to "use that accelerated calendar to make our respective economies more efficient, more effective" to meet the competition, primarily from China and India, which have been luring foreign investment away from Southeast Asia recently.

The 39-year-old bloc, which began liberalizing trade in goods in 1993, aims to become a single European Union-style market and production base to allow free flow of goods, services and investment across the region. It does not call for a single currency system.

Member nations Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia want the 10-member Asean Economic Community, or AEC, to be realized by 2015 to ensure the region stays competitive. It was initially planned for 2020 but proponents of faster integration say the region must do more to keep up with China and India as a destination for foreign investment.

Foreign direct investment into the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations rose to a record $38 billion last year, surpassing levels last seen before the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis. It still remains far behind China, which attracts around $50 billion in foreign investment annually.

Indonesian Trade Minister Mari

ASEAN/ B4

Says arrears covered by settlement with Napocor

By Ronnel W. Domingo

UTILITY GIANT MANILA ELECTRIC Co. yesterday disputed claims made by National Transmission Corp. that the Lopez firm still had P7 billion in arrears that it needed to settle with the state-owned Transco.

Last week, Transco president Alan T. Ortiz said the state firm had sent Meralco a demand letter for unpaid transmission charges of between P7 billion and P8 billion, including interest charges.

Ortiz said talks with Meralco could include whittling down the final amount to be settled.

Meralco vice president Elpi Cuna Jr. said company officials found Ortiz's statements "surpris(ing)."

"First, Transco's demand letter dated June 19, 2006, was for a much lower amount of P5.66 billion and not P7 billion as reported," Cuna said.

Transco's 2005 annual report also showed that its total receivables from Meralco amounted to almost P6.4 billion, two-thirds or some P4.3 billion of which was for overdue ancillary services accounts related to Meralco's contract shortfall with Napocor from Sept. 26, 2002, to Oct. 25, 2004.

MERALCO/ B4

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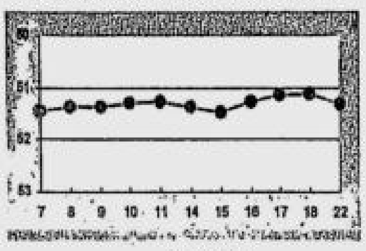

AUGUST

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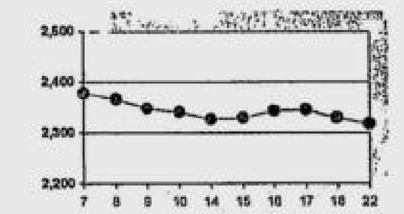
STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares close lower

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.50-PERCENT lower yesterday in a market bereft of strong leads capable of perking up investor interest after the three-day long weekend, dealers said.

Investors were also cautious following a spike in oil prices, though mining stocks attracted some buyers' interest after metal prices advanced in overseas markets overnight, they said.

They said the falls came amid a mixed

SHARES/ B4

BSP warned against easing interest rates too soon

By Doris C. Dumlao

BRITISH BANK HSBC LTD. HAS CAUtioned the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas against easing interest rates too soon despite the peso's strong performance and a projected downtrend in inflation.

HSBC said in its Macro Currency Strategy dated Aug. 11 that the US dollar was now nearing cyclical lows against the peso.

"The move was led by better E-VAT (expanded value-added tax) collection, stronger remittance flows, reopening of US eurobonds and some improvements in the political situation. However, we remain cautious," HSBC said.

HSBC added it would be "ill-advised" if the BSP were to consider easing interest rates too early.

"From the recent data, headline inflation has been decreasing but remains above the target of 4-5 percent. Furthermore, we are nervous that halving of the budget deficit next year maybe too aggressive against the prospect of slowing global economic activity and high energy prices," the bank said.

"We also worry whether the government would cut back on its infrastructure and social spending to achieve this target," it noted.

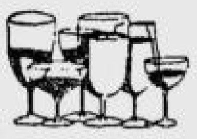
After a monetary tightening in 2005 followed by a steady interest rate policy so far this year, it was earlier reported that the BSP might consider easing its overnight policy rates in the absence of additional inflationary shocks.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. told reporters the monetary agency would continue to assess its inflation outlook, but for now, the current monetary settings were appropriate to help tame inflation back to the targeted range of 4-5 percent in 2007.

"We see this trend of inflation decelerating during the rest of the year and

BSP/ B2

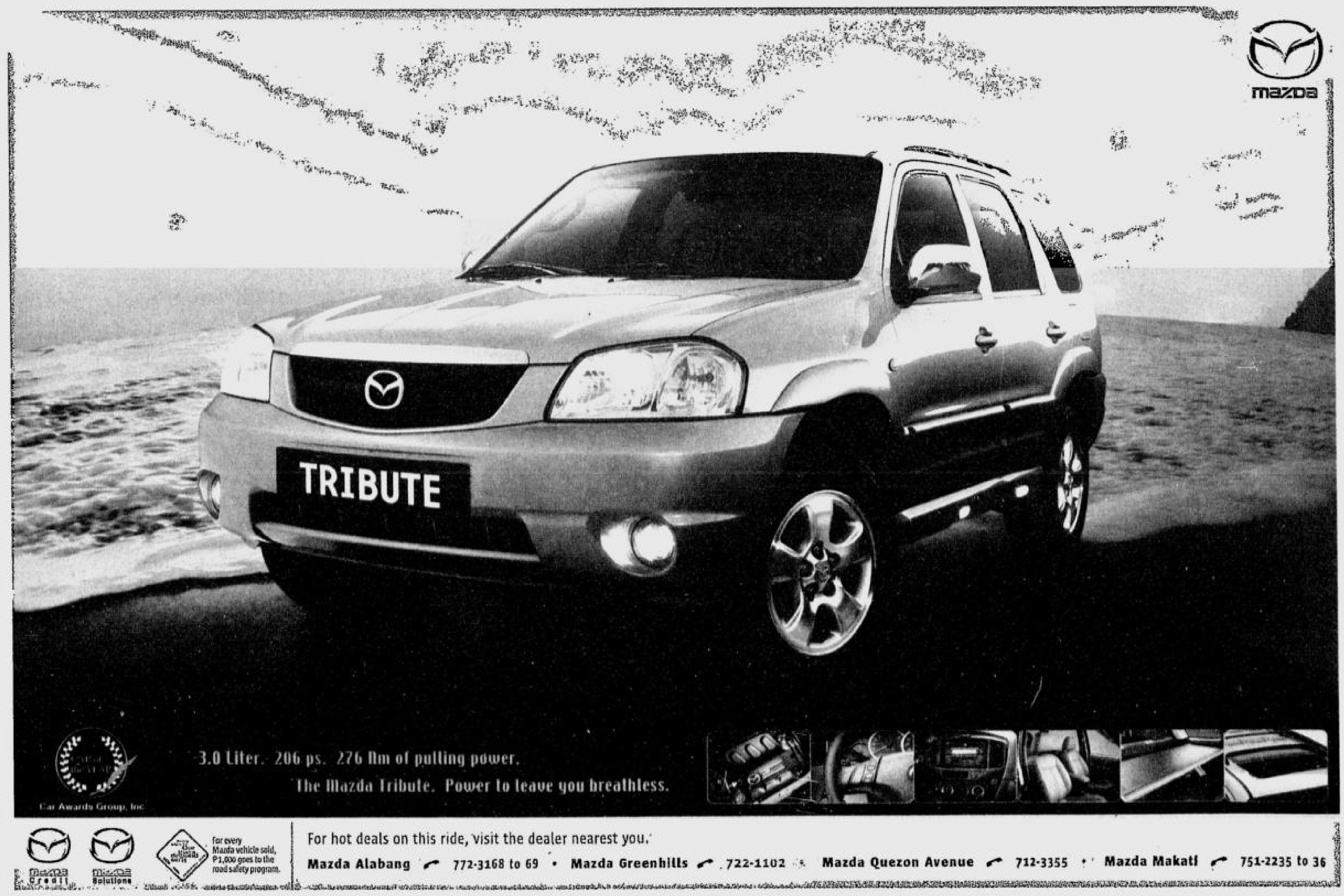
IN THIS ISSUE



▨ **La Salle** laundry machine /B3

▨ **Gov't set** to pay P7-B debt to GSIS /B4

▨ **Quiet times** ahead /B4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Quiet times ahead

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

HAVING BEEN BURGLED 3 TIMES IN 6 months, I built a 20-foot hedge around my house. When I returned home on Friday, it was gone. It had been bought by a hedge fund.

Congress is rushing through a Bill to make English the primary language in schools but they need a new alphabet. So here it is:

A's for arthritis,
B's for bad back,
C is for chest pains, perhaps cardiac.
D is for dental decay and decline,
E is eyesight, can't read the top line.
F is for fissures and fluid retention,
G is for gas, which I'd rather not mention.
H is high blood pressure—better if low,
I's for incisions with scars you can show.
J is for joints, very painful, won't mend,
K is for knees that crack when you bend.
L's for libido, what happened to sex,
M is for memory, I forget what comes next.
N is for nausea, it makes you feel low,
O is for osteo, bones that don't grow.
P's for prescriptions, I have quite a few,
Q is for queasy, it might be bird flu,
R is for reflux, one meal turns to two,
S is for sleepless nights, counting my fears,
T is tinnitus, there are bells in my ears.
U is for urine, big troubles with flow,
V is for vertigo, dizzy you know.
W's for worry that is going around,
X is for X-ray and what might be found.
Y is for another year I'm left here behind,
Z is for zest I still have—in my mind.

* * *

The latest figures showing that the US economy is slowing to about 3 percent has led everyone to believe that the Fed has stopped raising rates and might start lowering them next year. The inflation rate for July was 0.4 percent but the "core rate" (excluding food and energy) rose only 0.2 percent and that sent the indices to a 3-month high. I hope they are right but I still feel that inflation has not yet been squeezed out of the system and one more rate hike by Christmas is a 50-percent possibility.

All the second-quarter results are out and, while some were disappointing like Dell, profits measured against a year ago, showed a gain of 12 percent, the 12th quarter in succession to grow at double digits. Even if GDP growth for 2007 falls to 3 percent, productivity has grown so well that company profits are likely to rise by 8-9 percent. This may not be enough to push the index to new highs but it is certainly not recessionary. Once the Fed says it has stopped, funds will flow back into markets globally.

Here is some scary news gleaned from Barclays Capital, a unit of Barclay's Bank. The amount of money invested in commodities by institutions has risen from $6 billion in 1999 to between $100 and $120 billion. One-third of this is invested in crude alone. Too much money has been chasing too few commodity futures. This means that volatility is here to stay and there could be dramatic movements in either direction. The market is so large that nobody can control it, still less can anyone predict it.

China's central bank took everyone by surprise by raising rates 0.27 percent to 6.12 percent, a month earlier than expected. It is unlikely that China can raise rates much further to choke off excessive investment because the higher deposit rates climb, the more attractive it becomes for speculators to take large positions in the yuan on hopes that the currency will strengthen against the dollar.

A pause by the Fed would make the situation worse. China's foreign exchange reserves are approaching $1 trillion and is affecting interest rates in the US. Its trade surpluses, especially with the US, are becoming an embarrassment so it is likely that the yuan will be allowed to appreciate at a controlled pace. The trade surplus is flooding the economy with cash that finds its way into the banking system and is then lent out. If not carefully controlled, this could lead to massive bad debts. The Chinese government is trying to slow the GDP from 11.3 percent to 8-9 percent through a "soft landing."

Here at home, the government is ahead of schedule with respect to the budget deficit and is spending more on roads, schools and ports. The President intends to boost public investment, including state-owned companies, from 2 percent in 2005 to 5 percent in 2010. She also plans to reduce power costs. Question: What happens to Meralco employees when they retire? Answer, they de-generate.

Investors were unhappy about the decision of the Ayala Group to invest $75 million in China, India and Thailand, interpreting it to be a sign that opportunities here might be limited. I think this is wrong. They are just looking for opportunities to invest in emerging markets. The move of the Ayala Group into business outsourcing makes sense because they are already into telecommunications (Globe) and property development (ALI).

The swapping of short-dated debt for 10-year bonds is a smart move by the central bank, which is taking advantage of low interest rates. This pushes maturity dates further into the future and reduces interest payable in the next few years.

Over the last month, we have had nothing but good news. Company results were in line with expectations, remittances over the past 2 months were at record levels, the Bureau of Customs exceeded its targets for the sixth month and Finance Secretary Teves is ahead of schedule. The yields on treasury bonds have been falling every week, crude oil has dropped to $71 a barrel, the peso is very strong and foreign brokers are buying into our stock market daily. The impeachment attempt was a nonstarter and even the weather was kind with heavier rainfall increasing agricultural production by 5.4 percent. Yet, with all this good news, the Phisix just trades sideways in moderate volume. I wonder what it takes to push it higher. *mrbearbull@hotmail.com*

Smooth 'backdoor' listing seen for PAL

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE (PSE) sees no major hitch to the "backdoor" listing of flag carrier Philippine Airlines, bourse officials said.

They said the proposed acquisition by Lucio Tan-led Baguio Gold Holdings of 82 percent of PAL would be covered by the PSE's existing backdoor listing rules. Backdoor listing refers to the acquisition by a listed company of control in an unlisted company, with the unlisted company taking over the listing rights of the former.

"Baguio Gold will be subjected to additional listing rules and disclosure rules," PSE president Francis Lim said in a separate interview.

Lim added that refinements in disclosure rules covered under PSE's existing backdoor listing rules were currently pending approval with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). A copy of these rules were not immediately available.

Baguio Gold has agreed to buy six companies owned by Tan that collectively own 81.6 percent of PAL.

The Tan-controlled asset-holding companies are POL Holdings Inc., Cube Factor Holdings Inc., Ascot Holdings Inc., Sierra Holdings and Equities Inc., Network Holdings and Equities Inc., and Maxell Holdings Corp.

A financial structure may be ready before PAL holds its stockholders' meeting on Aug. 30.

Aside from Lucio Tan, the government holds 4 percent in PAL through Land Bank of the Philippines, Development Bank of the Philippines and the Armed Forces of the Philippines-Retirement and Separation Benefits System (AFP-RSBS). Employees own about one percent while the rest is held by private shareholders.

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INQ-23-08-2006

Mirant to pay P5B in taxes next month

MIRANT PHILIPPINES Corp. paid P251 million in documentary stamp taxes on loans last week and will pay more than P5 billion next month in withholding taxes on dividends to its parent company.

Mirant Philippines chair and president Jose Leviste Jr. said the parent firm, Mirant Corp., has decided to focus on its U.S. business and to sell all its non-U.S. assets, including its interests in the Philippines, Jamaica, Trinidad, Curacao and Grand Bahama.

As part of its divestment from the Philippines, the U.S. firm proposes to sell the same Hong Kong-based holding company that it bought in 1999 from Hopewell Holdings and through which Mirant holds all its Philippine interests, including the Sual and Pagbilao power plants and its investment in the Ilijan power plant.

"When Mirant bought the off-shore parent company, the local operating companies did not incur additional tax liabilities. This will also be the case when Mirant sells the same off-shore parent company," he said.

The divestment plan has attracted more than 30 strong power players and is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

Leviste said that, while Mirant Philippines has generous severance programs, he would expect that its eventual purchaser would want to secure continuity by retaining most of its more than 1,600 employees.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 22, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	32.5	33	32.5	33	2,796,800
Bank OF THE Phil. Islands	53.5	53.5	53	53.5	2,246,600
China Banking Corp.	700	700	700	700	580
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	300
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.38	1,790,000
Equitable Pci Bank Inc.	82	82	80.5	81.5	79,300
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	37.5	37.5	36.5	37	328,100
Philippine National Bank	34	34	33.5	33.5	8,100
Phil. Savings Bank	42	42	42	42	2,000
Philippine Trust Co.	40	40	40	40	5,300
Security Bank Corp.	48	48.5	48	48.5	9,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	45	45	45	45	1,100
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Bankard Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	200,000
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.84	210,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	30.5	30.5	30	30.5	12,800
Manulife Financial Corp.	1620	1630	1620	1630	1,120
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2030	2030	2020	2020	580
Ivantage Corp.	1.32	1.34	1.32	1.34	1,017,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	43	43.5	43	43.5	381,400
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	42.5	42.5	42	42.5	601,300
Manila Electric Co. A	16.25	16.25	16	16	8,800
Manila Electric Co. B	25	25.5	25	25	660,700
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9.1	9.1	9	9.1	2,149,000
Petron Corp.	4.1	4.1	3.9	3.95	6,022,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.245	0.245	900,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.94	0.95	0.94	0.94	6,280,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	3,000
Cen Azucar De Tarlac	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	9,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23	23	23	23	22,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	33.5	34	33.5	34	141,000
RFM Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	100,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.75	3.85	3.75	3.8	1,690,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	10,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64	64.5	63.5	64.5	69,700
San Miguel Corp. B	73	73	73	73	52,400
Universal Robina Corp.	18	18	17.75	18	641,700
Vitarich Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	500,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	360,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	2,374,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.6	11,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	100,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.55	0.56	0.47	0.47	142,090,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.085	0.095	0.085	0.0925	8,200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	45,000,000
Ayala Corp.	415	415	410	415	129,660
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5	4.95	5	140,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.033	0.033	0.031	0.031	22,200,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.84	1.84	1.82	1.82	537,000
APC Group Inc.	0.35	0.37	0.28	0.29	85,720,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	12,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.94	0.95	0.94	0.95	360,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	6,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.08	1.1	1.08	1.08	52,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	30,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.75	2.85	2.75	2.85	60,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.8	172,000
Medco Holdings	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	1,000,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.34	0.39	0.34	0.35	1,310,000
Pacifica	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.013	64,900,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.185	0.185	950,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.54	0.56	0.54	0.56	1,960,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.15	0.155	0.135	0.135	22,630,000
SM Investments Corp.	211	215	211	214	20,800
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.14	0.14	0.12	0.13	14,040,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.12	0.12	630,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	13	13.25	13	13	10,252,100
Belle Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	4,750,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	40,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.34	0.35	3,990,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.24	2.26	2.2	2.2	2,483,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	2,150,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.45	0.46	14,090,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.055	0.055	0.05	0.05	11,200,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.38	1.42	1.38	1.42	11,332,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.14	0.16	0.12	0.12	5,750,000
Gotesco Land Inc.B	0.165	0.17	0.15	0.15	2,580,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	10,000
Interport Res.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	33,000,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	30,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.64	1.7	1.64	1.66	57,372,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.225	0.225	0.22	0.225	2,400,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.17	0.17	300,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	12	12.25	12	12.25	291,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	3,800,000
SM Development Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	14,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.7	8,479,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	50,000
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	17	17	17	17	5,500
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	1,716,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1020	1020	1015	1015	9,160
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.8	6,159,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1975	1975	1965	1965	60,030
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.2	0.2	2,200,000
Imperial Res.	0.017	0.018	0.016	0.016	153,300,000
Ionics Inc.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	100,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	1,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	3,500,000
Philweb Corp.	0.03	0.03	0.029	0.029	397,600,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	3	3	3	3	100,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	14.75	15	14.75	15	2,776,300
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.94	0.95	0.94	0.95	110,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	760,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.52	1.62	1.52	1.58	3,119,000
Manila Jockey Club	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	7,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	230,000
EDUCATION					
Far Eastern University	1020	1020	1000	1000	180
Ipeople Inc	2.85	2.9	2.85	2.85	258,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Jth Davies Holdings Inc.	16	16	16	16	14,500
Macroasia Corp.	2.22	2.22	2.16	2.16	11,000
Paxys Inc.	10.5	10.5	10	10	2,412,900
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	4.8	5.1	4.8	4.95	3,905,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	4.8	5.2	4.8	4.95	3,960,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	7,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	8.1	8.2	8	8	1,431,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2	2.12	2	2.1	251,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	4,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.3	0.3	0.28	0.29	8,270,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.021	0.022	0.021	0.021	107,500,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	75,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.01	0.01	0.0095	0.0095	307,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	4.15	4.3	4.15	4.25	3,333,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	4.25	4.45	4.25	4.4	5,870,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	26	26	26	26	2,100
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.59	0.63	0.59	0.61	8,210,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.56	0.59	0.56	0.58	2,050,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	350,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	171,300,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	1,100,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.22	1.22	1.2	1.2	240,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	416,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	12.75	13	12.75	12.75	45,000

CURRENCIES

August 22, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.775555	1	51.16
Japan	Yen	0.006693	0.00863	0.4415
United Kingdom	Pound	1.4689	1.894	96.897
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.099749	0.128616	6.58
Switzerland	Franc	0.633468	0.816793	41.7871
Canada	Dollar	0.693822	0.894614	45.7685
Singapore	Dollar	0.493544	0.636375	32.5569
Australia	Dollar	0.592116	0.763475	39.0594
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.057338	2.652731	135.7137
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.206803	0.266652	13.6419
Brunei	Dollar	0.491978	0.634357	32.4537
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000085	0.00011	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.020703	0.026695	1.3657
UAE	Dirham	0.211156	0.272264	13.929
Euro	Euro	1	1.2894	65.9657
Denmark	Kroner	0.134047	0.17284	8.8425
India	Rupee	0.016715	0.021552	1.1026
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.211495	0.272702	13.9514
New Zealand	Dollar	0.497438	0.641396	32.8138
Norway	Kroner	0.124439	0.160452	8.2087
Korea	Won	0.000811	0.001046	0.0535
Sweden	Kroner	0.108568	0.139987	7.1617
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023753	0.030627	1.5669

BSP warned against . . .

From page B1

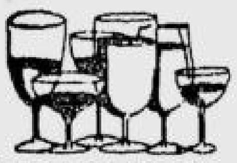
we're now seeing an average of 6.9-7 percent (for this year) moving to 4-5 percent next year, but we'll have to consider this with the risks that are still there. We're assessing the outlook and see if there's any room to move," Tetangco said.

The future stance of the US Federal Reserve will be another factor that the BSP would have to take into account, he said. He would not comment when asked about prospects of monetary easing before the year ends given the BSP's expected slowdown in inflation.

For the first time in two years, the US Federal Reserve held rates unchanged at 5.25 percent during its Aug. 10 meeting.

La Salle laundry machine

COCKTALES



Victor C. Agustin

THE DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY HAS APPARENTLY been used as a laundry machine in the name of charity.

The new La Salle campus in Bagac, Bataan, was illegally donated by a family corporation whose registration had been revoked, according to the feuding children of ailing accountant/lawyer Carlos J. Valdes.

The 3.4-hectare property was first donated to Balanga Bishop Socrates Villegas, the longtime parish priest of the Edsa Shrine, in July 2005.

Seven months later, the diocese turned around and donated the property to the La Salle Brothers, which promptly built and opened a grade school in June.

The donation and the twin transfers are illegal since the corporate registration of the donor, Surface Development Realty, was revoked by the Securities and Exchange Commission way back in August 2003 for repeated reportorial violations, said lawyer Antonio Zulueta, counsel for Jose Marie Valdes.

The youngest of the 10 Valdes children, Jose Marie, is facing eviction from the nearby Valdes farm where he lives and which he administers because of the ongoing inheritance feud with his eldest brother, Gabriel, a North Forbes resident. In addition to the revoked papers, the ailing patriarch could not have personally donated the property since the corporation is half-owned by his late wife, and, with her death in 2003, by her heirs, Zulueta said.

The Bagac school is being run by Bro. Bernard Oca, the former La Salle Greenhills president who had accused Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of stealing the 2004 elections.

Prior to the demand letter, other Valdes children sought an audience with both the bishop and the La Salle Brothers to have the property quietly returned to the family, to no avail.

According to the grapevine, the La Salle Brothers are still seeking legal advice from their counsel, the Accra law firm, before making any answer to the adverse claim.

Leave us out of it, please

AN incensed GMA balae, Herman Montenegro, called up threatening to hale Cocktales to court after his name cropped up in Monday's column.

In addition to objecting to his name being used to "spice up" (his own words) the column, Montenegro also denied having told Cocktales--he claims that it was the other way around, that it was Cocktales who had told him--that Mike Arroyo cousin Benito "Bomboy" Araneta had already resigned from the Philcomsat board.

Lest the dispute degenerate into an I-said, you-said exchange, what we distinctly recalled from that conversation was that Montenegro was concerned that Cocktales always linked Araneta to the First Gentleman whenever Araneta was mentioned in this space.

The same concern, incidentally, was also raised by the First Gentleman's chief of staff, Juris Soliman, in another phone call to Cocktales, prior to that disputed conversation.

To preclude any misquotation or misinterpretation, Cocktales suggested that Montenegro write a denial letter either to this space or to the editor, but Montenegro balked, saying the letter might be used to "spin" a different angle.

We also suggested that, henceforth, Cocktales should no longer be invited to any Montenegro function, lest Montenegro or any family member or Cocktales be accused of breaching anybody's confidence.

Montenegro agreed.

Money-go-round

- IN addition to the third Fort condominium, "retired" taipan John Gokongwei Jr. has acquired a 9.3-hectare property of Jardine Davies in Merville, which he plans to develop into a cluster of low-rise condominiums ringed by, in keeping with industry trend, trees and greens.
- PHILIPPINE Phosphate chair Jose Ch. Alvarez is grumbling about the alleged unfair competition in Poro Point, since the private port operator is also a fertilizer and grains importer.

This gives the operator/importer, said to be one Manuel Tan, an unfair advantage, since his vessels are given berth priority over the Alvarez and other vessels, causing the latter extra demurrage charges.

Heard through the grapevine

FED up with the alleged infidelity of her husband, the wife of a controversial congressman struck back the best way she could. Accompanied by a female lawyer, the wife early this month flew to the United States and cleaned up the multimillion-dollar conjugal bank account.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

Laguindingan airport project set to take off

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE LAGUINDINGAN AIRPORT development project in Misamis Oriental will push through with or without financial support from the National Development Corp. (NDC), according to the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC).

The national government is now trying to raise the P5.386 billion needed to complete the project—the bulk of which will come in the form of an official development assistance from South Korea, according to a DOTC official.

DOTC Assistant Secretary for project planning and development Robert C. Castañares said public bidding for the construction of the 4.3-kilometer, four-lane access road to the airport will take place next month.

The main project will be implemented sometime next year. The Laguindingan airport is set to be completed in 2009. It is expected to start operations the following year.

Apart from the access road, an airport terminal, watch tower and runway, will also be constructed.

The transport official also said that the DOTC has already included the project in its regular budget strategy.

Castañares said financing for the airport project was supposed to come from NDC, through the Philippine Infrastructure Corp. However, NDC's investment was found to be "not as workable" as originally thought.

Seeking to fast-track the project under the Medium-Term Development Plan, the government's Cabinet Assistance System, in which DOTC is represented, has recommended that the project push through as scheduled under the regular DOTC strategy. NDC may still continue to raise funds and participate in the project.

The government is now in talks with the Korean Eximbank for a "tied loan" that will cover part of the total budget. The government will also provide counterpart funding.

Also, the DOTC will transfer some P33 million to the provincial government of Misamis Oriental for land acquisition for the project.

Globe picks Aicent Gateway to boost services abroad

SHORT MESSAGING SERVICES have been a runaway success for mobile operators in the country and the rest of the world.

But users are seeking better interworking coverage which Globe Telecom Inc. can now provide, in partnership with Aicent Inc.

Aicent is one of the leading providers of mobile data network services and solutions. It also operates one of the world's largest GRX (GPRS Roaming Exchange) networks with direct connections to nearly 50 operators, collectively serving more than 500 million mobile users.

Acient said that Globe, the second largest telecommunications provider in the Philippines, has chosen its network architecture, called Aicent SMS Gateway, which provides interworking between both GSM and CDMA operators, and supports both IP and SS7 connections.

"We are pleased to select Aicent SMS Gateway to provide two-way SMS delivery for our valued customers with friends and relatives in various parts of the world," said Lauro Ignacio, Globe's consultant for international roaming business.

Aicent, meanwhile, said it is excited to be able to help offer value-added services in the Philippine market, the "texting capital of the world."

"Aicent's low-cost, integrated messaging service is designed to enhance user's experience and maximize operator's mobile data revenue streams," said Acient president and CEO Lynn Liu. "We continue to demonstrate our world-class mobile data expertise established by our data roaming, messaging and other next generation mobile data services."

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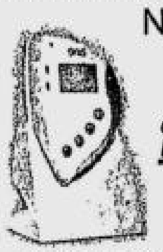

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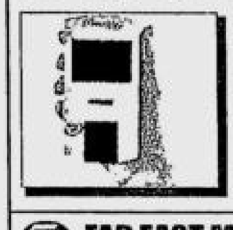

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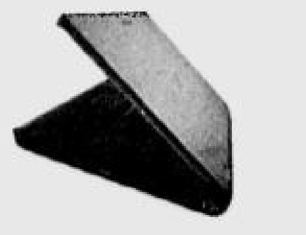

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Empire East earmarks ₱2.5B for new, expansion projects

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

CONDOMINIUM BUILDER EMpire East Land Holdings Inc., a 45-percent owned firm of property giant Megaworld Corp., is spending about P2.5 billion for housing projects this year until 2007.

ELI president Charlemagne Yu said that of the amount, P1.2 billion would be spent for new and existing projects this year and the balance of P1.3 billion was earmarked for nest year's projects.

ELI is celebrating the 10th anniversary of its listing at the Philippine Stock Exchange.

"We will continue to focus on the middle income market. What we did 10 years ago is being followed by other major real estate developers who used to focus on the high-end market. The middle-income market is difficult to penetrate but its is a very stable market. It is the backbone not only of the property sector but of the Philippine economy," Yu told reporters.

To boost sales to the middle-income market, Yu said ELI had offered flexible financing terms. It is studying the disposable monthly income buyers to "shape new products," he added.

Yu said ELI was planning to launch within the year new residential condominium projects in Metro Manila—particularly in Quezon City and San Juan.

ELI is also coming up with additional phases for its existing projects—Laguna Bel Air, Cambridge and California Garden Square.

In 2005, the company spent P1.3 billion for its construction and development activities, mostly at its California Garden Square project in Mandaluyong. This project occupies 3.5 hectares of land and features 25 medium-rise residential clusters,

The Cambridge Village, a condominium project consisting of about 3,500 units in Pasig, is 87.75 percent sold as of 2005.

ELI recorded a financial turnaround in the first semester of the year, with net profit of P68.3 million as against a restated net loss of P263,000 last year.

Last year's net loss was brought about by the classification of dividends as expenses based on new accounting standards, sources explained.

The company also reported a total revenue of P446.3 million in the first semester, up from P316.2 million in the same period last year.

Gross profit rose 89 percent to P146.6 million in the first six months from P77.5 million in the same period last year. Sales, the company said, were derived from the following projects: Laguna Bel-Air 3, Laguna Bel-Air 4 (Laguna), Greenhills Garden Square (Ortigas), California Garden Square (Mandaluyong), Xavier Hills (Quezon City) and The Cambridge Village (Pasig-Cainta area).

Gov't set to pay ₱7-B debt to GSIS

Negotiations on interest charges to start soon

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET and Management has committed to pay the Government Service Insurance System P7.14 billion in premiums that had remained unpaid for about a decade now.

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. told reporters the amount, representing the principal obligation to the GSIS, was already included in the proposed supplemental national budget for this year.

The settlement of the principal will pave the way for start of negotiations on the interest charges claimed by the state pension fund.

The GSIS refused to start the negotiations until the principal was paid. "We understand that, so we will pay the principal," he said.

Andaya said he had already informed the GSIS of the DBM's commitment in a meeting with the pension fund president Winston Garcia.

In line with this development, the government has dropped an earlier plan to hire actuarial experts as third-party assessors. Instead, the government intends to just carry out an earlier deal entered into by the DBM, GSIS and Bureau of Treasury in 2001.

Under that deal, the three agencies agreed to set the principal obligations at P7.14 billion and to subject the P6.28-billion interest claimed by the GSIS to further negotiations.

The MOA of 2001 did not push through as the government's fiscal deficits ballooned. To date, the GSIS' claims have increased to P14 billion.

With the significant progress in fiscal consolidation efforts, the government can now afford to settle its arrears to the GSIS.

In the meantime, the snail-paced implementation of reforms in the Philippine pension fund system has been a cause for widespread concern, given the vulnerabilities of both the GSIS and Social Security System.

In an earlier country report, the World Bank warned about the GSIS' portfolio being increasingly concentrated on lending to its members which, it said, made the fund "susceptible to adverse developments that could affect its returns and long-term sustainability."

The World Bank cited the alarm bells rang by the GSIS, itself, citing pressure on its financial position unless the social insurance premiums owed by various government agencies were collected soon.

WOMEN from Boyuan village near Mayon volcano continue their livelihood of weaving abaca fiber, one of the region's chief industries, at a government evacuation center in Legaspi. The government faces the problem of providing temporary livelihood for the evacuees after the mandatory evacuation to clear Mayon volcano's eight-kilometer danger zone brought 44,000 people to various evacuation centers. The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) has warned there would be more "pyroclastic flows" of deadly heated ash and gas "in the following days due to progressing explosions," at Mayon. AFP

Groups cite Unilab founder

SEVERAL HEALTH sector organizations have honored united laboratories Inc. (Unilab) founder Jose Y. Campos with the title "Father of the Philippine Pharmaceutical Industry."

Campos founded Unilab as a small corner drugstore in war-torn Manila in 1945 and transformed it into the country's leading pharmaceutical company with over 300 prescription and consumer health brands. Its product line covers a wide spectrum of common illnesses like cough, colds and vitamin deficiency, as well as major chronic diseases including hypertension and diabetes.

The most recent recognition came from the Philippine Pharmaceutical Association. Earlier, the Philippine Medical Association (PMA), Philippine Dental Association (PDA), and Professional Regulations Commission (PRC) bestowed the same title to Campos.

The groups also cited Campos, who passed away in May this year, "for cultivating a strong partnership with the country's medical professionals and healthcare institutions and for his support for programs for continuing medical education and community service."

He was also cited for his promotion of the Filipino *bayanihan* concept.

MacroAsia mining project gets Palawan gov't nod

THE PROVINCIAL BOARD OF Palawan has thrown its support for Lucio Tan-led holding firm MacroAsia Corp.'s plan to begin mineral activities in a mine site in Brookes Point, Palawan.

In a statement, MacroAsia said the Sangguniang Panlalawigan ng Palawan, in a resolution dated July 25,2006, had withdrawn its earlier objection to MacroAsia's Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA), which was approved early this year by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The provincial board of Palawan, through Resolution 6416-2006, earlier urged the DENR to cancel the MPSA issued to MacroAsia on concerns over news reports saying that the company had already started exploration work. However, the reports were denied by MacroAsia during a meeting with the Palawan provincial board.

The provincial board, through its new Resolution No.6491-2006, withdrew its objection after consultations with MacroAsia executives and officials of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

MacroAsia assured the provincial board that it would fulfill its corporate and social obligations to the indigenous communities to be affected by its planned mining operations.

The provincial board's support paves the way for the start of MacroAsia's mineral exploration, which will determine the feasibility of conducting full blown mining operations in the area.

"The regional director of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, Region IV, explained that exploration work was part of the MPSA, but if MacroAsia declares that the mining area is feasible, the corresponding local government consultation will again have to be undertaken, along with all other applicable environmental requirements," the provincial board resolution said.

Listed MacroAsia is engaged in aviation-related services but it inherited its mining rights from Cobertson Holdings Corp. (formerly Infanta Mineral & Industrial Corp.), which the Tan company bought earlier.

MacroAsia told the Philippine Stock Exchange in March that it had obtained an MPSA from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau covering 1,114 hectares of land in Brookes Point, Palawan.

The MPSA gives MacroAsia the right to conduct mining operations in said site, which include exploration, development and utilization for commercial purposes of nickel, chromite, iron and other associated mineral deposits that may be found in the area.

The MPSA runs for a term of 25 years from the date of issuance. It is renewable for 25 years.

MacroAsia president Joseph Chua earlier said that several mining firms from Canada, China and Japan had approached the company for a possible joint exploration of the Palawan mine site. The joint venture offers come at a time when metals—particularly nickel—are fetching record prices in the world market. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

Call centers seen creating 90,000 new jobs in 2 years

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE CALL CENTER INDUSTRY, alone, could generate about 90,000 jobs in the country in two to three years' time, given the right support, according to California-based business process outsourcing (BPO) solutions provider Five9 Inc.

An official of Five9 said the company, which has chosen the Philippines as the site of its headquarters for its Southeast Asian operations, was committed to help the sector its employment generation target.

Country manager Junie Pama said that Five9 had so far served dozens of customers, helped put up 1,600 call center seats and provided 2,500 direct and indirect jobs in the country since it started operations here last year.

The Five9 Virtual Contact Center™ system, which the US firm is offering its market here, enables companies of any size to build a comprehensive, feature-rich contact center anywhere in the world without any hardware, software, or up-front capital expenditure. Also, Five9's on-demand service allows easy setup and administration of at-home agent network, as well as singular or distributed, multisite centers to act as one, regardless of geographic location.

The operations of Five9's local partners here opened direct job opportunities to Filipinos--including managerial, book keeping and accounting positions, as well as slots for call center agents and human resource staff.

The company has also helped provide livelihood opportunities for small and medium-scale enterprises such as coffee shops, restaurants, and other food and beverage establishments located near call centers.

Five9's latest partnership deal is with a newly opened joint venture of two information technology (IT) companies. The joint venture, 999 Call Center Corp. and Taft Offshore Solutions Inc., established a call center along Taft Avenue in Manila that will cater to the Australian and European markets. Five9 provided the system that the call center is using.

Asean ...

From page B1

Pangestu said that "everybody agrees" on accelerating the plans, but that "it's now a question of how to achieve it."

They all endorsed the push yesterday, Ong said.

Earlier in the day, Malaysian leader Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the bloc needed to harmonize domestic trade laws if it wanted to fuse its economies into a EU-style market by 2015.

"If we do not hasten the creation of that regional single market, Asean may run the risk of losing its position as an important investment destination," Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said in opening a five-day meeting of Asean trade ministers.

"Certain changes in national legislation might become necessary to enable regional liberalization initiatives to succeed," he said, without elaborating.

Ong said the region's trade delegates—who met within minutes after Abdullah addressed them—agreed to the proposal for 2015.

"There is no objection to the position mapped out by Abdullah," said Ong. "The Asean way is that we all come together, we go together, and the less developed economies, we will help them."

A wide economic gulf divides Asean's six more developed nations—Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Brunei, Thailand and the Philippines—and its four newer members—communist Vietnam and Laos, military-ruled Myanmar and Cambodia in a region home to 560 million people.

Most Asean countries keep a tight grip over key industries such as banking, health care and transport. Such policies hinder economic progress and conformity, analysts say.

Abdullah said changes to domestic legislation was necessary if Asean were to mesh its diverse economies.

Asean's external trade neared $1 trillion in 2004, Abdullah said. *AP*

Meralco disputes P7-B claim ...

From page B1

"Second, P5.62 billion or 99 percent of the stated amount of P5.66 billion is already incorporated in the settlement agreement (Meralco) signed with National Power Corp. on July 15, 2003," Cuna added.

He said the agreement with Napocor, which was subject to approval of the Energy Regulatory Commission, covered generation costs as well as transmission costs.

He explained that when Meralco entered into a 10-year supply contract with Napocor in 1994, purchases included both generation and transmission costs as Transco was then a division of the state-owned power producer.

Transco was made an independent firm following the passage of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001.

"It then simply follows that the Settlement Agreement covers both these costs," Cuna said.

The official said that in a letter dated June 19, Transco wrote that while it was aware of the pending case with the Energy Regulatory Commission regarding the settlement agreement with Napocor, Transco had to handle the account in accordance with its credit and collection policies.

"We cannot understand why Transco is pushing for the collection of these amounts now considering that it is fully aware that the settlement agreement is still pending (with) the ERC," Cuna said.

Napocor and Meralco jointly filed the agreement with the ERC on April 15, 2004, with Transco being a signatory to the Amendatory Dispatch Agreement that was included in the joint petition.

In a later filing dated Jan. 20, 2006, Napocor and Meralco said the net settlement amount has been reduced from the P20.05 billion to P14.3 billion following higher Meralco purchases from Napocor between July 2003 and December 2004.

Shares close lower

From page B1

performance by regional markets after US stocks snapped a five-day winning streak overnight with tensions over Iran's nuclear program driving-up oil prices.

The composite index finished down 11.76 points at 2,318.14, after moving between 2,313.21 and 2,329.90. The broader all-shares index fell 6.37 points to 1,434.97.

Losers led gainers 60 to 29, with 45 stocks ending flat. There were 1.93 billion shares traded worth P1.28 billion.

Philippine markets were closed Monday for a public holiday.

"We've seen few incentives to trade on at the moment and at the same time, the market is also keeping a wary eye on geopolitical issues and their impact on oil prices," said Mark Alan Canizares of online broker Citiseconline.com.

Oil prices were firmer in Asian trading hours with the focus shifting from Lebanon, where a truce has been declared, to Iran which vowed to press on with its controversial nuclear program.

Dealers said remarks by Iran's supreme leader Monday that Tehran has made up its mind on its uranium enrichment work paved the way for a possible showdown with the UN Security Council.

Harry Liu of Summit Securities said the market is consolidating within the 2,300-2,400 range.

"There's a cyclical lack of interest to trade during the month of August, but we should see the start of a good momentum next month if market support at 2,300 holds," he said. *AFP*

Asiatrust targets P800-M net income

Thrift bank to go after small, medium firms

By Christine A. Gaylican

THRIFT BANK ASIATRUST DEVELOPMENT Bank Inc. plans to record a net income of P80 to P100 million next fiscal year by going after small and medium-sized enterprises

Asiatrust president Dionisio C. Ong said in an interview that aggressively pursuing SMEs would enable Asiatrust Bank to surpass its performance in the first eight months of its current fiscal year ending March 2006, during which the bank recorded a net income of P33 million.

"We will pursue a more aggressive lending for SMES and grant lower cost of funds via better innovative sourcing strategy such as cash management services for our clients," he said.

Ong added that Asiatrust—where the Asian Development Bank is a shareholder—will sell more than P500 million in real and other properties owned or acquired (Ropoa) through special auctions.

Asiatrust has a capital adequacy ratio of 13.9 percent at the end of its fiscal year in July this year, higher than the 10-percent required by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Asiatrust expects to raise it even further to 20 percent following the issuance of 10-year subordinated debt, or Tier 2 notes, worth up to P550 million.

A group led by the late Recio M. Garcia incorporated Asiatrust Bank (ASIA) under its old name, Quezon City Development Bank, in October 1960.

It is one of the first private development banks to be set up in Quezon City.

Since its inception, the bank's goal and purpose has been to provide needed financial assistance to entrepreneurs.

Free Internet for SMEs set

By Ronnel W. Domingo

SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES can now have free access to broadband Internet facilities in 10 sites nationwide, according to the Department of Trade and Industry.

The DTI said this was in line with the government's program to grow SMEs by harnessing information technology.

DTI said the facilities were in SME Centers in Cavite, Batangas, Bacolod, Iloilo, Cebu, Bohol, Dumaguete, Davao City, Tacloban City and the BSMED Assistance Center in Makati City.

This project, which is under the DTI's e-commerce campaign, is made possible by the partnership between the Bureau of Small and Medium Enterprise Development and Globe Telecom subsidiary Innove Communications.

The company had equipped the 10 SME Centers with desktop computers and broadband connections to be more effective in delivering services to SMEs, including fast and easy access to information through the Internet.

Also, Globe Telecom would assist the DTI in its e-commerce awareness campaign by educating SMEs on the benefits of broadband technology.

Further, the SME Centers have a helpdesk for entrepreneurs seeking information on business opportunities and access to the services of government and private institutions.

"Now that the Internet is being recognized as a powerful tool in promoting SMEs' business activities and in acquiring data to increase market access, entrepreneurs are being given this opportunity for exposure to technology that can help them improve their viability and operational efficiency," DTI said.

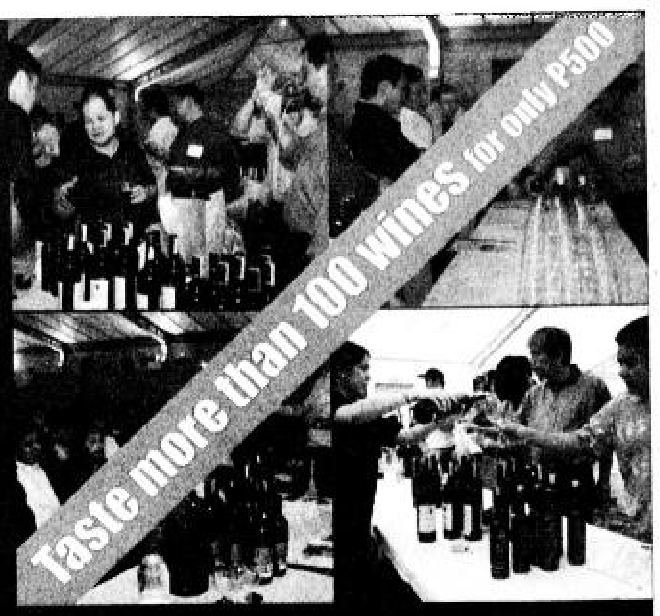
In a related matter, information technology services firm CareersPROtech has started offering a software package that would enable SMEs to be more viable and technologically up to date.

Company managing director Raffy David had said NetSuite was "the ultimate application" to run an SME with because it is on-demand and Internet-based.

David explained that NetSuite's availability through CareersPROtech addresses the needs of SMEs for a single software application that manages the business processes of an entire organization because it bundles customer relations management, accounting functions and eCommerce features.

"The suite uses the same integrated functionality and scalability as applications used by large enterprises, but with the ease-of-use and affordability that SMEs need," he said.

He said further that the system would enable SMEs to avoid hiring its own IT workers, thus reducing costs.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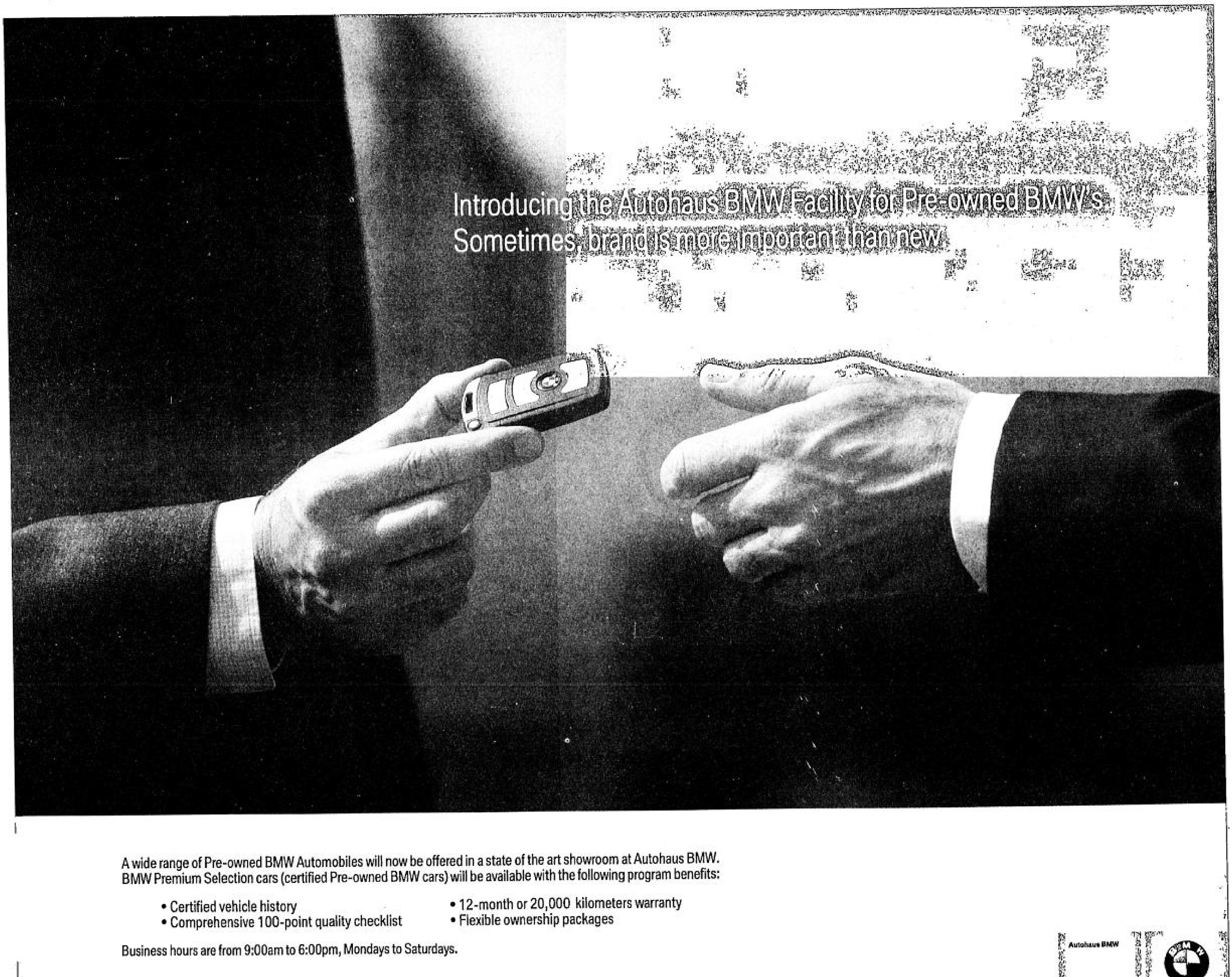
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United States set to conclude trade-boosting pact with Asean

WASHINGTON—THE UNITED States is set to conclude an agreement with Southeast Asia this week, which is expected to boost free trade and help Americans benefit from a larger East Asian tariff-busting program.

The trade and investment framework pact is expected to be clinched by US Trade Representative Susan Schwab and her counterparts from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) after talks in Kuala Lumpur Friday, officials said.

The United States at present has trade and investment framework agreements, popularly known as Tifa, with key individual Asean economies, aimed at setting the stage for free trade agreements.

As the upcoming Tifa deal is regional in nature, many expect it to lay the guidelines for a future free trade pact between the 10-member Asean and the United States, its largest trading partner.

"It's early to predict what the next step is but the US-Asean Tifa arrangement is a positive opening of possibilities on the trade front," said Ben Dolven, senior director at BrooksBowerAsia, a Southeast Asia focused advisory firm.

"It reflects an understanding on the part of the United States that a great deal is happening at the regional level and that the United States wants to be there," he said.

Asean member countries now are the fourth largest trading partner of the United States, with two-way trade totaling about $150 billion last year.

The United States has a free trade agreement with only one Asean member, Singapore, and is negotiating similar pacts with Malaysia and Thailand.

It has Tifa deals with Indonesia, the Philippines, Brunei and Cambodia, addressing issues ranging from intellectual property rights to regulations impeding agricultural trade to customs agreements to combat shipments of illegal goods.

The other Asean member states are Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam, which has concluded a much-awaited agreement with the United States for its accession to the World Trade Organization.

US bilateral free trade agreements in Southeast Asia should ultimately bring down business barriers across Asean and enhance regional integration, officials said.

"I do believe that our Asean-Tifa is a very important first step, and it will help us lay the groundwork, and build the capacity, and intensify cooperation and address specific trade issues that are going to be necessary to facilitate those consultations and ultimately achieve that vision," Deputy US Trade Representative Karan Bhatia said recently.

Analysts note that the United States is beginning to strengthen links with Asean as a grouping, moving away from its traditional focus on bilateral links in the region which has come under criticism.

"This criticism has finally sunk in," said Brad Glosserman, executive director of the Hawaii-based Pacific Forum.

This shift "is an attempt to broaden the terms of engagement and to demonstrate the US commitment to being a partner to the region," he said.

The emphasis on building ties with Asean, for example, could help link the United States to an evolving East Asian regional free trade area, analysts said.

Asean economies, aside from forging a regional free trade area among themselves, have launched plans for a free trade area with China that could create a unified market of nearly two billion people—the largest in the world.

Asean also has pacts to forge free trade with Japan and South Korea.

There are now plans to expand this East Asian free trade arrangement to include India, Australia and New Zealand under a Japanese initiative called the "pan-Asian comprehensive economic partnership." *AFP*

A VENDOR cooks traditional Indonesian food for his customers at his road-side stall in Jakarta. Indonesia's President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono painted an upbeat picture of Southeast Asia's largest economy, vowing to help the poor and push on with a corruption fight as growth picks up pace next year saying that the country's economy was seen expanding 6.3 percent next year, after clocking in an estimated growth of 5.9 percent in 2006. AFP

Southeast Asia trade bloc faces challenges

Region to contend with mutual suspicion

KUALA LUMPUR—SOUTHEAST ASIA WANTS to form a loose economic union, but the region will have to conquer a mountain of national interests and mutual suspicion before it gets there.

Asean firms are accused of being too timid to cross borders, but the reality is they have often got a cold welcome or found their way barred by red tape and trade barriers.

Asean has been a free trade area since 1993, but Thailand refuses to drop import tariffs for Malaysian car-makers, accusing its neighbor of protecting them with nontariff barriers.

"We still have many differences," Tony Fernandes, founder and head of low-cost airline AirAsia, said in a recent interview. "I still see a lot of nationalism in places."

AirAsia, which wants to be a pan-Asean carrier and expand air travel in the region, has been refused landing rights in Singapore, despite Asean talk of "open skies" aviation.

Across the region, business sense takes a back seat to nationalism, even when relatively small assets are at stake.

Singapore-listed Parkway Holdings faced a political backlash after it bought 31 percent of Malaysian healthcare firm Pantai Holdings last year. Pantai remains majority Malaysian-owned but once Parkway bought in, the government ordered a review of Pantai's major contracts with the state.

"This is hardly the right kind of signal to transmit for a country wanting to woo foreign portfolio investment," Singapore's Business Times wrote on Monday.

Malaysia and Singapore have a long history of distrust and, despite 39 years of regional diplomacy under the Asean umbrella, other Southeast Asian nations are also wary of each other.

In preparing for a single market, Asean listed sensitive areas where states did not want neighbors to invest freely.

"It's not a list, it's a book," Malaysian Trade Minister Rafidah Aziz told reporters this week, showing a huge list that ran to dozens of pages.

Cross-border deals are growing in Asean, with neighbors investing in Indonesian banks and the Philippines' power sector, but it is far from open season for mergers and acquisitions.

Singapore state investment arm Temasek, with roughly $64 billion in assets at end-March 2005, has to tread very carefully. Neighbors covet its capital but not the Singaporean influence.

Temasek bought into Malaysia's smallest lender, Alliance Bank, in 2005 after spending seven months to craft a complex deal that met tough foreign-investment rules. It later sold part of another Malaysian bank amid talk of local central bank pressure.

Thailand launched a probe this week into Temasek's $3.8 billion purchase of Shin Corp., Thailand's biggest telecoms company, from the family of the Thai premier. The inquiry will decide if the deal broke foreign-investment rules.

"The various parts of Asean have their own sensitivities," said Stuart Forbes, head of Malaysian International Chamber of Commerce and Industry. "That is not going to go away overnight."

Asean spans the development and political spectrums, from a modern services-based economy in Singapore to a rural backwater like Laos, and from a big, emerging democracy in Indonesia to one of the last absolute monarchies in tiny Brunei.

Given the disparities, a single market along the lines of the European Union is considered by economists to be unachievable by 2020. Within Asean, an EU-type system, where labor can flow relatively freely across borders, could be frightening.

Even with existing tight immigration laws, the flight of poor Indonesians seeking work and new lives in more prosperous parts of the region constitutes one of the world's largest migrations of people. Indonesia is the world's fourth most populous nation.

Still, Asean feels compelled to lower barriers to trade, capital and labor despite discomfort about national interests.

Asia's hottest investment destination in the 1990s, it now ranks third after China and India and does not want to slip further. *Reuters*

Yen down; Asia export, energy stocks up

SINGAPORE—JAPANESE EXPORTERS and energy shares led Asian stocks higher on Tuesday, encouraged by yen weakness against the dollar and the euro and as crude oil held on to its strong overnight gains.

Japanese government bonds strengthened in line with other sovereign debt markets, and as Japanese interest rates looked likely to stay lower for longer relative to rates elsewhere.

Tokyo's benchmark Nikkei average closed up about 1.3 percent, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng and MSCI's index of non-Japan Asian shares were both around 0.5 percent higher early yesterday afternoon.

Stocks climbed Asia-wide, in spite of some bearish news on the outlook for US consumer spending, although investors preferred resource shares such as BHP Billiton, up 1.7 percent amid firm base metals prices, energy stocks such as China's CNOOC , up 2.25 percent, and blue chips such as Honda Motor, up 2.3 percent after Monday's sharp fall.

In Seoul, defensive plays like SK Telecom, up 0.8 percent, helped lift the main index 1.0 percent.

US stocks fell, spooked by higher crude prices and fears of slower consumer spending after a disappointing outlook from home improvement chain Lowe's. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 0.3 percent and the Nasdaq Composite Index dipped 0.75 percent.

Crude oil futures were 3 cents higher at $72.48 a barrel after a gain of more than 3 percent in the past two sessions.

Iran is expected to reject later in the day a key United Nations demand to stop nuclear work, raising concern about a disruption of oil flows.

Traders fear any UN sanctions could prompt Iran, the world's fourth-largest oil exporter, to use its oil exports as political leverage.

Oil traders were also watching several brewing tropical storms in the Atlantic and the truce between Israel and Hezbollah—already jolted by an Israeli commando raid on Saturday.

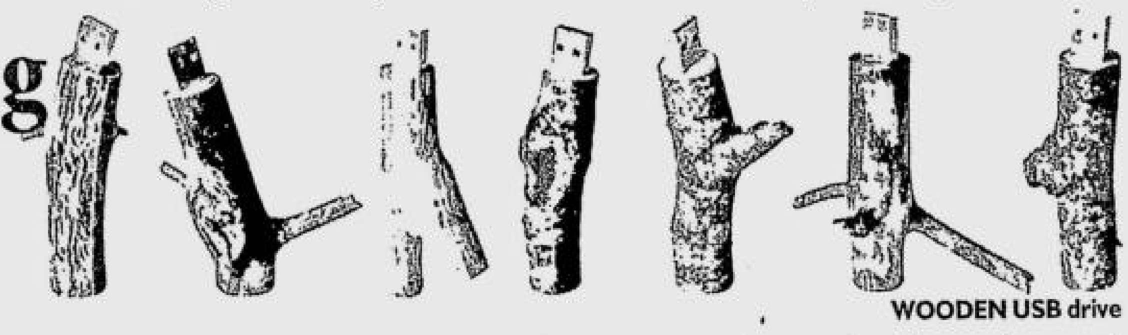
Gold extended gains to $627.70 an ounce from $626.00 in late New York trade, tracking oil higher.

Japanese government bond futures edged up to a two-month high, supported by sovereign debt market gains elsewhere.

"Foreign bonds have been firm, with Treasuries and Bunds having broken through key technical levels," said a proprietary trader in JGB futures.

Lead September 10-year JGB futures hit a two-month high for a second straight session, rising as high as 133.18. *Reuters*

New gadgets, software rising



WOODEN USB drive

TRIPLE PHONE WATCH: NEWest Transformer member

Look! On your wrist! It's a watch! No, it's a cell phone! No, it's a desk clock!

Actually, it is all three. The Triple Watch Mobile Phone is a three-fold device pretty much like a three-fold wallet. It has a huge LCD at the front side for telling time and a phone user interface at the back. You can attach a strap onto the phone hinges to turn it into a really cool watch.

Brando Phone Telescope: Asking for a bit more space

http://mobile.brando.com.hk

Telescopic zoom for your Nokia phone? Well, you'd have to give up your rear casing for it. This telescope adds six times magnification and a huge bulge in your pants if you do decide to purchase it. So far, it's compatible with the Nokia 6230i series and the Nokia 6680.

Bleach and Naruto Phone Strap: Animé on your phone

http://narutofever.com or http://www.toysnjoys.com

Because Bleach is the new Ghost Fighter and Naruto is the new Dragonball Z, we pay tribute to two of the most watched animé in today's best of entertainment. What next? Steam Boy and Full Metal Alchemist accessories, of course!

Sony Ericsson M600i: Minding its business

http://www.sonyericsson.com

So it's finally making waves in the country in the next few weeks! The M600i is the "replacement" to the P series of "smart" phones from Sony Ericsson. The M600i resembles a Blackberry with push email capabilities. 3G, a touch screen, and Bluetooth are the other corporate functions included with this unit. No camera for this one, though—this is seriously for business only.

Helio Kickflip: Set to impress

http://www.helio.com

The Kickflip is a phone of extremes—you got your evolution-data optimized (Evdo) connection, but no instant messaging application. You got your two-megapixel camera, but no Bluetooth? Helio sure knows how to take a product and break it. Thank God we don't have this phone here—we'd surely trash it in the review.

Yahoo! Messenger for Mac 3 Beta 1: It's about time

Can this be true? After many years of praying, waiting and ePetitions, Yahoo! has finally released a brand new version of Yahoo Messenger for Mac OSX. The instant messaging application is very similar to the Windows version, retaining a lot of the aesthetic feel of the Macintosh user interface.

You can download the new version at http://messenger.yahoo.com.

TRIPLE WATCH CELLPHONE

TRIPLE watch cell phone

LG Finger Mouse: You pointin' at me?

http://www.lg.com

Here's something new from LG. But what makes this single-button mouse different from the Apple mice we've all come to know? Well, aside from being ultra small and thin, the two button functions are integrated into one-click above for the left and below for the right.

Innovative? Well, it's too difficult to tell as of late. But for gamers, I'm sure this isn't something they'd want.

Nokia N93: The next-gen phone

http://www.nokia.com

A new upgrade to the N90? Yessiree!

The form factor of the N93 makes it suitable for users to take videos. Unlike the N90 where the twist hinge is located at the top-middle of the screen, the N93's hinge allows you to view the screen in "landscape mode," especially when you want to record and view something.

The N93 is capped with a 3.2-megapixel Zeiss camera lens with 3x optical zoom. It has 50MB of internal memory and a miniSD expansion slot to store all the media your heart desires.

Sima Hitch USB Transfer Device: The middleman

http://www.gethitch.com

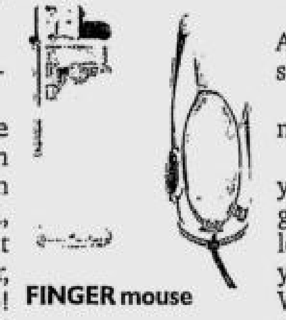
We can think of a dozen ways to make use of this device. Basically, the Hitch allows you to connect two USB devices, whether either one be a camera, media player, a flash drive ... and exchange files between the two devices. It sure makes file swapping easier. A 4MB song roughly takes six seconds to transfer.

BoomBag iPod Speaker Bag: Bring that noise

http://www.reluct.com/home/2006/07/gro-design-ipod-speakerbag.html

http://www.grodesign.com/

Ever seen those iPod speaker bags on sale in most tech stores today? Well, here's something that not only looks better, but sounds better, too! The bag has been carefully planned to look like .. well, a bag—and not a speaker set. If you don't get what I'm trying to say, you can take a look at the brand tag that, upon further inspection, is actually a volume control mechanism. The single, full range speaker is actually hidden in the deep end of the bag.



FINGER mouse

Guitar Pro 5: It does Mac, too

http://www.guitar-pro.com/en/index.php

For those guitar freaks sick of Garage Band limitations, your prayers have been answered with Guitar Pro 5 for Mac OS X (and yeah, Windows too).

Guitar Pro isn't just a composition and recording application. It is also a "guitar almanac" reference for all possible chord diagrams (even those with the most obscure finger positions), scale progressions and the ability to view your music in notation or tablature format.

And it's quite cheap too, for only $59.

Wooden USB Drive: A techie-botanist's essential tool

http://www.oooms.nl/usb/

So you really want your officemates to give you that second look as they pass by your workstation? Well, they sure will, once they see a bit of flora and fauna sticking out of your USB port. Makes it seem like you're actually growing stuff inside your PC.

This is actually quite perfect if your office doesn't have windows or allow planters on your cubicle.

Noise Sensitive Table: Hush now

http://www.techeblog.com

Corporations love to quantify everything. So they might as well quantify the level of contributions made by employees during board meetings with this noise sensitive table. It is also a good way of tracking employees who contribute the most to discussions or who give nonsense talk.

The table "records" the amount of noise contributed by a person through visual markers on the table. Over time, this accumulates and by the end of the meeting, you can see who's got the loudest mouth.

A worthy investment? Well, if you're an out-of-the-box boss, you might want to consider this for your board room.

4GB Memory Stick Pro Duo: This little baby gets bigger

http://www.memorystick.com

So they just keep getting smaller and smaller with their capacities getting bigger and bigger!

Sony has unveiled the 4GB Memory Stick Pro Duo, their flashy proprietary storage for small devices. One good thing about Sony is that they truly support their products. This means that when you stick this into any new Sony product, you're sure to maximize its capacity.

(This article is in the August issue of Mobile Philippines, which includes a primer on mobile security, a guide to wireless presentation techniques and takes a look into the gadget bag of INQ7.net's editor in chief, JV Rufino. Mobile Philippines is the only magazine that specializes in personal electronic devices from phones to music players to laptops. It is available at newsstands for P80.)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
Ombudsman Bldg., Agham Road, North Triangle,
Diliman, Quezon City

Memorandum Circular No. 03
Series of 2006

TO : ALL HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS, BUREAUS AND AGENCIES OF THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND/OR CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS AND STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

SUBJECT : DESIGNATION OF A COORDINATOR TO ACT ON OMBUDSMAN'S REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

Pursuant to Section 13, paragraph (5), Article XI of the 1987 Constitution and Section 15, paragraph (5) of Republic Act No. 6770 (otherwise known as The Ombudsman Act of 1989), the Office of the Ombudsman shall have the power to request any government agency for assistance and information necessary in the discharge of its responsibilities, and to examine, if necessary, pertinent records.

For expediency, all heads of departments, bureaus and agencies of the national and local government, including government-owned and/or controlled corporations and state universities/colleges shall designate a Coordinator and submit his name to the Ombudsman or her Deputies within ten (10) days from date of effectivity of this Memorandum Circular.

The Coordinator shall preferably be a senior official holding third level position, and shall act promptly and responsively on all requests from the Office of the Ombudsman for assistance and information needed by its officials / employees and / or the public. The Coordinator shall submit to the Ombudsman or her Deputies on or before the fifth day of the succeeding month a written report on the progress of requests pending before their department / bureau / office stating the reason for the delay or failure to act on them within the prescribed fifteen (15) days from date he received the request.

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect within fifteen (15) days from its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

August 15, 2006

(Sgd.) MA. MERCEDITAS N. GUTIERREZ
Tanodbayan

(PDI – August 23, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Metro Roxas Water District
MRWD Bldg., Km 1, Roxas City 5800, Philippines
Tel. # (036) 6210-7371 / 6210-044 / 6215-474
Telefax # (036) 6216-083

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
(No. 008-06)

The **METRO ROXAS WATER DISTRICT (MRWD)**, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers / manufacturers / distributors / contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : **CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ALUMINUM SULFATE**
Location : **Lawaan WTP, Lawaan, Roxas City**
Brief Description : **ALUMINUM SULFATE 17% HYDRATE**
Approved Budget for the Contract : **Php 2,550,000.00**
Source of Funding : **OPERATING BUDGET CALENDAR YEAR FOR 2006**
Contract Duration : **60 CALENDAR DAYS**
Delivery Period : **60 CALENDAR DAYS**

The Eligibility Check / Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check, will be opened. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bid Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations A (IRR-A).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Advertisement	August 14 – 28, 2006
2. Issuance of Bid Documents	August 29 to September 8, 2006
3. Pre-bid Conference	September 12, 2006 @ 2:00 PM
4. Pre-qualification conference w/ 1 kg Sample	September 18, 2006 @ 2:00 PM
5. Deadline for Submission of Bids	September 22, 2006 @ 2:00 PM
6. Opening of Bids	September 22, 2006 @ 2:00 PM
7. Bid Evaluation	September 25, 2006
8. Post-qualification	September 27, 2006
9. Notice of Award	September 29, 2006

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 1,500.00 to the METRO ROXAS WATER DISTRICT. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The METRO ROXAS WATER DISTRICT assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) GONZALO GLEN B. DELGADO
BAC Chairman

Address : METRO ROXAS WATER DISTRICT
MRWD Bldg., Km. 1, Roxas City
Place(s) of Publication : GEPS and MRWD Bulletin Board

(PDI – August 16 & 23, 2006)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers / manufacturers / distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project / Brief Description	One (1) lot supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of two (2) sets 70KVA/KW Uninterruptible Power Supply with redundancy for BSP-Head Office Data Center per BSP Scope of Work and Technical Specifications
Approved Budget for the Contract	P 17,500,000.00
Contract Duration	Within sixty (60) calendar days after receipt of approved contract

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar project within the last five (5) years with an amount of at least 50% of the Approved Budget for the Contract. The Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	16 August – 31 August 2006 not later than 1:30 PM
2 Pre-Bidding Conference	01 September 2006 3:00 PM Room MR2A
3. Opening of Bids	19 September 2006 2:00 PM Room MR2A
4. Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003
5. Post-qualification	
6. Notice of award	

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount of P8,750.00 to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.
Chairman

(PDI – August 23, 2006)

NREA confab to witness tripartite partnership

IN CONCERTED EFFORTS WITH GOVERNMENT agencies involved in housing and real estate and the private sector, the National Real Estate Association, Inc. (NREA), the one-stop trade organization, will hold its 11th National Convention and Exhibits on August 24 to 26, 2006 at SM Megatrade Hall 3, EDSA, Mandaluyong City with the theme, "New Direction in the Real Estate Industry." This was announced by television personality and association P.R.O. Marissa del Mar, who is also program host of IBC-13's "Up Close and Personal."

The affair, which is being held under the auspices of Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG Fund), Home Guaranty Corp. (HGC), National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. (NHMFC), SM Megamall, the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Boysen Paints, Secomp Digital Printing and Philippine Women's University's Institute of Fine Arts and Design, will provide updates and innovations in this multi-billion peso industry.

"This tripartite collaboration of government-private sector-NREA is an offshoot of last year's successful convention where the theme was "Sustaining the Real Estate Boom," del Mar said. "The growth in the industry now requires a direction for which key stakeholders in the real estate and housing sectors can concretize their efforts and resolve to move forward and upward in the right direction," she added.

Real estate professionals and allied services, property developers, construction suppliers, officials from local government units and the academe are expected to attend the three-day affair to witness cutting-edge technologies, expert and in-depth papers by resource speakers which include the country's top architects and urban planners in Felino A. Palafox, Jr., Nestor S. Mangio and Abelardo M. Tolentino, Jr.; Pag-IBIG Fund CEO and president Romero F.S. Quimbo, BIR Region VIII (Makati City) Director Atty. Nelson M. Aspe; Chairman Edgar B. Aglipay of Philippine Leisure and Retirement Authority; Navy Capt. Rafaelito R. Sacdalan of the AFP Real Estate Office; Century Properties executive vice president Emil Perez, and; Feng Shui Master Andy Tan.

For more particulars, please contact NREA at tel. nos. 913-4463 or 912-3492 or email at nrea_org@yahoo.com.

Bautista leads committees at this year's CREBA annual confab

THE CHAMBER OF REAL ESTATE AND Builders' Associations (CREBA), recently announced the holding of its Annual National Convention from October 19, 20 and 21, 2006, at the Camp John Hay, Baguio, with the theme: "Pro-active Response to Property Trends & Opportunities".

The convention will be conducted in coordination with the Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Tourism, Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, Board of Investments, and the Philippine Retirement Authority.

Techie Bautista and Pedro Tario, convention chair and national president, respectively, said that aside from providing participants the rare opportunity to enjoy the cool ambiance and posh facilities of Camp John Hay, the convention more importantly aims to provide the forum for real estate stakeholders to be apprised of recent business opportunities and trends gathering momentum in the world's real estate market and the response thereto by Creba and its convention partners.

Overall vice-chairs are Reghis M. Romero and Victor H. Manarang. Committee chairpersons are Teresita C. Millan- finance and budget, Myrna delos Reyes- administration, Melanie Lapore-Ways and Means, Lynn Maceda- CREBA Chorale, Benson Perelonia- Conference 3, Jerry M. Navarette- Conference 1, Tess Millan- Finance/ Budget, Manny T. Ramos-Golf Tournament, Connie Beltran- Marketing & Attendance, Delfin Wenceslao- Ways and Means, Edith L. Manansala-PR & Media Affairs, Rene Dragon- Conference 2, Tom Panis- Regional Exhibit & Tiangge, Eugene C. Yu – Chapter participation and Workshop, Willy Jasarino- Resolutions, Nestor S. Mangio-Conference 1. Host Chapters are Tony Buenavista and Jane Cosalan- Baguio Chapter and Ambie Valero- La Union Chapter.

For more information, you may call the CREBA secretariat at 373-22-70- to 75.

WANTED

For Immediate Hiring
By a Well-Known Forklift Distributor

1 – Service Supervisor
1 – Accounting Supervisor
1 – Accounting Clerk
1 – Male Secretary (for Service Dept.)
5 – Forklift Mechanics

Qualifications:

1. For Service Supervisor, must be Mechanical Engineering graduate and with working experience.
2. For Accounting and Secretarial positions, candidate must be college graduate with working experience.
3. For Mechanics, must be technical / vocational graduate, preferably with 1 year working experience.

Report for personal interview at:
2682 Gen. Cailles St., Bangkal, Makati City
Tel. No.: 843-3251 • 8433254

Bring Diploma / Transcript of Records, Biodata and 2 pcs 1 x 1 ID photo.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE DESK OFFICERS

(within Quezon City)

Applicants must be:

- graduate of any 4-year degree, preferably in Communication Arts or Social Sciences
- computer literate (Microsoft Access/Web page)
- female, 5'4" in height
- not more than 25 years old
- with pleasing personality
- articulate/fluent in English
- preferably can speak at least 2 dialects apart from Tagalog

Send your resumé with scanned picture to:
ready_action_line@yahoo.com
or fax to (02) 922-7762

Deadline of submission : **September 4, 2006**

NOTICE

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
DISTRICT COURT DIVISION
COUNTY OF WAKE
FILE NO. 06 SP 2405
IN RE: THE ADOPTION OF PAXTON EDWARD ONSTOTT

TO: DAVID WESLEY ONSTOTT

Take notice that a Special Proceeding has been commenced against you in the above referenced court and file. The Petitioner is seeking to adopt a male child who was born on May 19, 2001, in Sacramento, CA to Tracy Rae Johansen . This child was conceived on or about June 2000.

In order to participate in and receive further notice of the proceeding, including notice of the time and place of any hearing in this matter, you must file a response to the petition with the Wake Country Clerk of Superior Court, Post Office Box 351, Raleigh, North Carolina 27602, within forty (40) days of service on or before September 25, 2006.

IN THE EVENT YOU FAIL TO RESPOND THE PETITIONERS WILL ASK THE COURT FOR THE RELIEF SOUGHT WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE TO YOU. THE ORDER FOR TERMINATION WILL TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THIS CHILD AND DIVEST YOU OF ALL RIGHTS WITH RESPECT TO THE CHILD.

You should provide a copy of any response to the attorney for the Petitioner at the address indicated below.

Bobby D. Mills, Post Office Box 1677, Raleigh, North Carolina 27602 (919) 821-1860.

(PDI – August 16, 23 & 30, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late FELICISIMO J. BAYRON was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc # 64, Page #13, Book #III, Series of 2006 under Notary Public Justo S. Lopez of Angono, Rizal.

(PDI – Aug. 9, 16 & 23, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Center for Health Development - Bicol
BICOL MEDICAL CENTER
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Naga City
Telephone Nos. (054) 473-75-78; (054) 473-69-36
E-mail Address: slopez_bmc@yahoo.com
Fax No. (054) 473-69-36; (054) 473-7578; (054) 8112227
Website: http://www.doh.gov.ph/bmc/index htm

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1. The **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER**, through General Appropriations Act intends to apply specified sum for the following projects:
   a) **Project: Procurement of Various Groceries (IAEB No. 2006-010)**
   Approved Budget for the Contract: **TWO MILLION NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY NINE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED SIXTY FOUR PESOS ONLY (PhP2,989,664.00) (GAA CY 2006)**
   Sale of Bid Documents — August 21 to September 21, 2006
   Pre-Bid Conference — September 21, 2006 – 9:00 A.M. BMC Library
   Bid Opening — October 3, 2006 – 9:00 A.M. BMC Library
   b) **Project: Procurement of Janitorial Services for C/Y 2007 (IAEB No. 2006-012)**
   Approved Budget for the Contract: **FIVE MILLION PESOS ONLY (PhP 5,000,000.00) (GAA CY 2007)**
   Sale of Bid Documents — August 21 to September 22, 2006
   Pre-Bid Conference — September 22, 2006 – 9:00 A.M. BMC Library
   Bid Opening — October 4, 2006 – 9:00 A.M. BMC Library
   c) **Project: Procurement of Security Services for C/Y 2007 (IAEB No. 2006-013)**
   Approved Budget for the Contract: **THREE MILLION PESOS ONLY (PhP3,000,000.00) (GAA CY 2007)**
   Sale of Bid Documents — August 21 to September 22, 2006
   Pre-Bid Conference — September 22, 2006 – 9:00 A.M. BMC Library
   Bid Opening : October 4, 2006 – 2:00 P.M BMC Library
   Bids received in excess of theABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening
2. The **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER** now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the above stated projects. Delivery of Groceries will commence after receipt of notice to proceed, schedule of requirements will be on a monthly basis until completed. Security and Janitorial Services will be effective beginning January 1, 2007 until December 31, 2007.
   The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon; 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M., except weekends and Holidays.
5. A complete set of Bidding Document for each project may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (PhP 1,500.00)**. The method of payment will be in the form of Cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address, date and time stated above. The bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following forms, in the amount at least equal to and not lower than a percentage of the ABC or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency:
   1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit (1% of ABC)
   2. Bank Guarantee (1.5% of ABC)
   3. GSIS Surety Bond (2.5% of ABC)

   Late bids shall not be accepted.
7. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representative/s who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Contact Address: BICOL MEDICAL CENTER
Concepcion Pequeña, Naga City
Telephone Nos. (054) 473-7578; (054) 473-8936
E-mail Address: slopez_bmc@yahoo.com
Fax No. (054) 473-8936; (054) 811-2227
Website: http://www.doh.gov.ph/bmc/index.htm
Contact Person: ANGELITA A. AGAWA, MPA
Chief Administrative Officer and BAC Chairman

(Sgd.) ANGELITA A. AGAWA, MPA
BAC Chairman

(PDI--Aug. 23 & 29, 2006)

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City 1634
Tel No. 893-1320, Local 5285

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND REBID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

11,000 Gallons of Normal Pentane Under FUM 63712
Approved Budget: PHP 5,980,000.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Roderick R. Cabantog** starting **August 23, 2006** from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **August 31, 2006, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply, Property and Materials Management Division at the above address, and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m. (Supply Management Department Office Wall Clock Time)** on **September 14, 2006**. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee I

(PDI--August 23 & 30, 2006)

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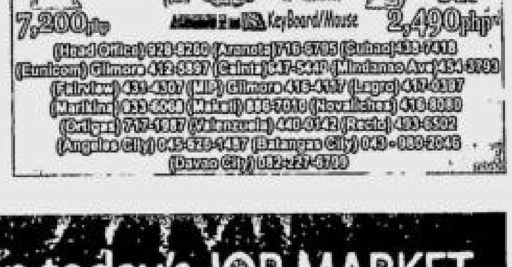

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COMMISSION ON AUDIT

Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City

FINANCIAL REPORTS OF 79 PROVINCES AND 117 CITIES

Fiscal Year 2005

(in thousand pesos)

PROVINCES

Local Government Units	Class	Balance Sheet			Statement of Income and Expenses									
		Total Assets	Total Liabilities	Total Equity	Total Income	Rank 1	Rank 2	Total Expenses	Rank 1	Rank 2	Net Income (Net Loss)	Rank 1	Rank 2	% of Net Income (Net Loss) to Total Income
Region 1		5,728,051	1,237,472	4,490,580	3,128,920			2,472,834.9			656,085			21
Ilocos Norte	1	974,854	186,520	788,334	550,200	31	4	449,142	31	4	110,058	28	3	20
Ilocos Sur	1	2,613,027	528,533	2,084,494	668,000	24	2	578,266	21	2	89,734	33	4	13
La Union	1	536,062	153,155	382,906	646,550	26	3	487,935	28	3	158,615	21	2	25
Pangasinan	1	1,604,109	369,264	1,234,846	1,255,170	6	1	957,492	6	1	297,677	5	1	24
Cordillera Administrative Region		2,847,398	572,314	2,275,084	1,902,802			1,646,700			256,182			13
Abra	3	341,135	119,019	222,115	455,108	43	1	406,798	38	1	48,310	54	2	11
Apayao	4	422,079	160,099	261,979	288,887	65	3	254,479	65	3	34,407	65	6	12
Benguet	2	1,258,799	123,815	1,134,984	365,763	60	2	322,450	57	2	43,313	58	3	12
Ifugao	3	323,856	71,572	252,285	263,257	71	4	213,533	71	4	49,724	53	1	19
Kalinga	3	318,806	63,771	255,035	283,423	66	6	241,909	67	6	41,514	59	4	15
Mt. Province	4	182,723	34,038	148,685	246,444	73	5	207,530	72	5	38,914	60	5	16
Region 2		4,516,022	1,413,402	3,102,620	2,600,907			1,835,776			765,132			29
Batanes	5	284,626	87,321	197,305	133,052	79	5	115,613	79	5	17,439	76	5	13
Cagayan	1	1,345,595	394,616	950,979	757,044	19	2	591,872	19	1	165,172	17	3	22
Isabela	1	1,770,504	657,445	1,113,058	885,371	13	1	553,661	23	2	331,710	4	1	37
Nueva Vizcaya	2	846,795	140,640	706,155	549,802	33	3	327,976	56	3	221,826	10	2	40
Quirino	3	268,502	133,381	135,121	275,638	67	4	246,655	66	4	28,984	69	4	11
Region 3		11,708,821	3,367,829	8,340,992	5,212,484			4,065,278			1,147,206			22
Aurora	3	491,389	46,168	445,221	266,285	69	7	219,707	70	7	46,578	56	7	17
Bataan	1	1,747,454	757,851	989,603	732,949	21	4	504,254	25	4	228,695	8	2	31
Bulacan	1	2,978,876	507,889	2,470,987	1,493,603	2	1	1,206,541	2	1	287,062	6	1	19
Nueva Ecija	1	2,350,378	1,117,753	1,232,625	927,235	11	2	701,750	12	2	225,486	9	3	24
Pampanga	1	838,700	239,334	599,366	776,704	17	3	638,248	15	3	138,455	24	4	18
Tarlac	1	2,561,289	400,710	2,160,580	622,148	28	5	488,821	27	5	133,327	25	5	21
Zambales	2	740,734	298,324	442,410	393,560	54	6	305,957	60	6	87,603	36	6	22
Region 4		17,185,077	3,487,550	13,697,527	8,109,533			6,182,958			1,926,576			24
Batangas	1	2,269,952	696,195	1,573,757	1,104,456	8	4	762,787	11	4	341,669	2	2	31
Cavite	1	2,359,533	243,779	2,115,754	1,265,426	5	2	926,066	7	2	339,361	3	3	27
Laguna	1	2,750,668	304,224	2,446,444	1,275,519	4	1	1,067,023	4	1	208,496	11	4	16
Marinduque	4	266,697	46,021	220,676	231,018	74	10	201,052	74	10	29,966	68	9	13
Occidental Mindoro	1	805,708	129,453	676,256	414,891	48	8	383,345	41	8	31,545	67	8	8
Oriental Mindoro	2	1,484,073	115,823	1,368,250	476,674	40	7	399,886	39	7	76,788	39	7	16
Palawan	1	1,457,667	713,077	744,590	798,885	16	6	626,315	16	6	172,570	13	5	22
Quezon	1	2,079,515	582,271	1,497,243	1,068,694	9	5	902,175	8	3	166,520	15	6	16
Rizal	1	3,272,945	436,242	2,836,703	1,209,083	7	3	675,933	14	5	533,150	1	1	44
Romblon	3	438,320	220,467	217,853	264,887	70	9	238,377	69	9	26,511	73	10	10
Region 5		4,465,124	1,071,306	3,393,818	2,822,075			2,284,039			538,036			19
Albay	1	1,109,641	123,780	985,860	584,172	30	2	418,623	36	2	165,549	16	1	28
Camarines Norte	2	627,736	139,200	488,536	367,501	59	5	313,616	59	5	53,885	49	4	15
Camarines Sur	1	1,315,425	317,677	997,748	742,432	20	1	613,275	17	1	129,157	26	2	17
Catanduanes	3	282,954	109,052	173,902	261,479	72	6	241,167	68	6	20,313	75	6	8
Masbate	1	709,152	182,536	526,617	455,120	42	3	338,918	53	4	116,202	27	3	26
Sorsogon	2	420,215	199,060	221,155	411,371	50	4	358,440	46	3	52,930	51	5	13
Region 6		7,545,290	1,799,412	5,745,877	3,751,697			3,303,306			448,391			12
Aklan	2	868,002	225,637	642,365	378,664	58	5	304,044	61	5	74,620	40	4	20
Antique	2	561,291	277,777	283,514	398,099	52	4	370,458	44	4	27,641	71	6	7
Capiz	1	782,308	162,212	620,097	514,746	34	3	425,239	33	3	89,507	34	2	17
Guimaras	4	476,701	69,843	406,858	209,212	75	6	174,705	75	6	34,508	64	5	16
Iloilo	1	1,930,473	400,943	1,529,530	922,403	12	2	841,002	9	2	81,402	37	3	9
Negros Occidental	1	2,926,513	663,000	2,263,513	1,328,573	3	1	1,187,858	3	1	140,715	23	1	11
Region 7		9,862,121	1,471,574	8,390,547	3,097,800			2,480,602			617,198			20
Bohol	1	1,228,853	191,692	1,037,161	656,094	25	3	492,267	26	3	163,827	18	2	25
Cebu	1	6,220,535	872,431	5,348,103	1,509,531	1	1	1,262,461	1	1	247,070	7	1	16
Negros Oriental	1	1,957,711	343,513	1,614,198	764,076	18	2	603,505	18	2	160,571	20	3	21
Siquijor	4	455,022	63,937	391,084	168,099	77	4	122,369	78	4	45,729	57	4	27
Region 8		3,226,899	707,081	2,519,818	2,621,632			2,150,173			471,459			18
Biliran	4	455,912	84,610	371,302	187,932	76	6	160,237	76	6	27,695	70	6	15
Eastern Samar	2	205,216	29,814	175,401	386,217	57	4	350,021	50	3	36,196	63	5	9
Leyte	1	1,399,186	296,216	1,102,971	839,241	14	1	677,391	13	1	161,850	19	1	19
Northern Samar	2	485,536	52,098	433,438	408,591	51	3	355,882	47	2	52,709	52	3	13
Samar	1	299,206	38,205	261,001	485,646	39	2	330,454	55	4	155,192	22	2	32
Southern Leyte	3	381,843	206,137	175,706	314,006	63	5	276,189	62	5	37,818	62	4	12
Region 9		3,063,409	911,228	2,152,182	1,828,060			1,615,333			212,728			12
Zamboanga Del Norte	1	1,596,342	284,546	1,311,796	816,758	15	1	837,659	10	1	(20,901)	79	3	(3)
Zamboanga Del Sur	1	1,021,632	502,601	519,032	597,840	29	2	427,091	32	2	170,749	14	1	29
Zamboanga Sibugay	3	445,435	124,081	321,354	413,462	49	3	350,583	49	3	62,879	46	2	15
Region 10		5,592,879	1,485,905	4,106,974	2,462,125			2,208,668			253,457			10
Bukidnon	1	1,773,671	462,082	1,311,589	1,044,457	10	1	996,825	5	1	47,631	55	3	5
Camiguin	5	273,306	98,837	174,469	156,695	78	5	135,081	77	5	21,614	74	5	14
Lanao del Norte	2	1,777,830	568,039	1,209,791	393,577	53	3	340,145	52	4	53,432	50	2	14
Misamis Occidental	2	655,842	182,336	473,506	392,346	55	4	354,460	48	3	37,886	61	4	10
Misamis Oriental	2	1,112,230	174,612	937,619	475,050	41	2	382,156	42	2	92,893	31	1	20
Region 11		3,028,234	736,701	2,291,532	1,945,397			1,642,634			302,763			16
Compostela Valley	1	912,812	184,577	728,234	497,457	36	2	388,694	40	3	108,763	29	1	22
Davao del Norte	1	863,817	166,676	697,140	510,218	35	1	483,659	30	1	26,558	72	4	5
Davao del Sur	1	856,255	306,156	550,100	491,333	38	3	421,193	35	2	70,140	44	3	14
Davao Oriental	1	395,350	79,292	316,058	446,389	44	4	349,087	51	4	97,302	30	2	22
Region 12		3,904,073	818,259	3,085,814	2,028,712			1,592,559			436,153			21
North Cotabato	1	1,317,061	353,519	963,542	726,781	22	1	534,110	24	1	192,670	12	1	27
Sarangani	2	628,966	14,756	614,210	364,431	61	4	272,895	63	4	91,537	32	2	25
South Cotabato	1	933,840	130,951	802,890	496,324	37	2	424,960	34	2	71,363	41	4	14
Sultan Kudarat	1	1,024,206	319,034	705,172	441,177	45	3	360,594	45	3	80,583	38	3	18
Region 13		2,523,875	637,704	1,886,171	1,873,493			1,683,488			190,005			10
Agusan del Norte	3	581,749	51,006	530,743	438,968	46	2	374,680	43	3	64,288	45	1	15
Agusan del Sur	1	919,057	335,566	583,491	622,328	27	1	564,698	22	1	57,630	47	2	9
Surigao del Norte	2	684,131	157,436	526,695	390,222	56	4	336,298	54	4	53,924	48	3	14
Surigao del Sur	1	338,938	93,696	245,242	421,975	47	3	407,813	37	2	14,162	78	4	3
Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao		2,709,892	473,435	2,236,457	2,128,589			1,849,088			279,501			13
Basilan	3	570,487	136,907	433,580	273,728	68	5	203,450	73	5	70,278	43	3	26
Lanao del Sur	1	994,016	96,103	897,913	672,777	23	1	583,490	20	1	89,287	35	1	13
Maguindanao	1	695,711	189,273	506,438	556,665	32	2	485,525	29	2	71,140	42	2	13
Sulu	3	177,401	23,317	154,084	335,787	62	3	320,592	58	3	15,195	77	5	5
Tawi-Tawi	4	272,277	27,835	244,442	289,631	64	4	256,031	64	4	33,601	66	4	12
GRAND TOTAL		87,907,165	20,191,171	67,715,994	45,514,307			37,013,438			8,500,871			

CITIES

Local Government Units	Class	Balance Sheet			Statement of Income and Expenses									
		Total Assets	Total Liabilities	Total Equity	Total Income	Rank 1	Rank 2	Total Expenses	Rank 1	Rank 2	Net Income (Net Loss)	Rank 1	Rank 2	% of Net Income (Net Loss) to Total Income
National Capital Region		93,805,776	24,481,905	69,323,870	37,392,054			27,394,946			9,997,108			27
Caloocan	1	5,677,524	2,537,605	3,139,919	2,156,932	6	5	1,642,828	6	5	514,104	5	5	24
Las Piñas	1	2,311,309	282,263	2,029,046	1,141,760	15	12	974,933	11	9	166,827	17	10	15
Makati	1	19,990,082	3,827,891	16,162,191	6,457,963	3	3	4,098,502	3	3	2,359,461	2	2	37
Malabon	1	379,743	127,645	252,098	574,104	31	14	520,110	30	14	53,994	70	14	9
Mandaluyong	1	3,348,209	1,455,551	1,892,657	1,601,647	8	6	1,498,384	8	6	103,262	35	13	6
Manila	Special	13,274,453	4,381,427	8,893,026	7,443,466	1	1	5,997,331	1	1	1,446,135	3	3	19
Marikina	1	3,523,801	774,639	2,749,161	1,199,773	14	11	790,796	19	13	408,977	9	6	34
Muntinlupa	1	2,152,974	658,664	1,494,310	1,280,708	12	9	974,754	12	10	305,954	11	8	24
Paranaque	1	2,861,447	1,436,806	1,424,641	1,596,226	9	7	1,432,868	9	7	163,358	19	11	10
Pasay	1	4,464,471	1,882,165	2,582,307	1,450,562	10	8	1,178,753	10	8	271,809	12	9	19
Pasig	1	9,253,202	954,225	8,298,978	3,230,895	4	4	2,171,808	5	4	1,059,087	4	4	33
Quezon	Special	21,009,779	4,143,214	16,866,564	6,952,311	2	2	4,299,421	2	2	2,652,890	1	1	38
Taguig	1	2,146,910	1,150,689	996,221	1,059,975	17	13	953,340	13	11	106,635	34	12	10
Valenzuela	1	3,411,873	869,122	2,542,751	1,245,733	13	10	861,117	16	12	384,616	10	7	31
Region 1		4,044,802	1,169,742	2,875,061	2,153,597			1,724,909			428,688			20
Alaminos	5	342,415	24,134	318,281	205,634	102	6	152,254	106	6	53,380	72	3	26
Candon	4	585,406	179,379	406,028	203,086	104	7	150,100	107	7	52,985	73	4	26
Dagupan	2	713,760	372,420	341,340	357,404	55	2	338,503	44	1	18,901	106	8	5
Laoag	3	546,463	130,704	415,759	290,348	73	3	261,150	69	2	29,198	97	6	10
San Carlos	3	376,403	135,304	241,099	264,663	80	5	184,707	93	5	79,956	51	2	30
San Fernando	3	378,392	143,781	234,612	274,666	77	4	250,411	73	4	24,256	100	7	9
Urdaneta	2	810,722	117,546	693,176	382,699	51	1	250,592	72	3	132,107	23	1	35
Vigan	5	291,240	66,475	224,766	175,098	114	8	137,193	110	8	37,905	89	5	22
Cordillera Administrative Region		2,183,906	447,362	1,736,544	812,136			569,452			242,683			30
Baguio	1	2,183,906	447,362	1,736,544	812,136	25	1	569,452	27	1	242,683	15	1	30
Region 2		3,179,298	374,303	2,804,995	1,145,855			750,311			395,544			35
Cauayan	4	385,260	158,214	227,046	306,280	70	3	248,057	74	2	58,223	63	3	19
Santiago	1	1,942,880	68,310	1,874,570	532,129	34	1	296,730	55	1	235,399	16	1	44
Tuguegarao	2	851,158	147,779	703,379	307,446	69	2	205,524	81	3	101,922	36	2	33
Region 3		8,945,669	3,437,310	5,508,359	4,237,396			3,605,792			631,603			15
Angeles	1	1,022,857	538,339	484,518	513,526	35	2	525,236	28	1	(11,710)	116	12	(2)
Balanga	4	210,982	72,820	138,162	207,134	101	9	194,194	91	9	12,940	109	10	6
Cabanatuan	1	1,065,190	731,516	333,674	459,286	40	5	441,780	35	3	17,507	107	9	4
Gapan	4	288,908	59,355	229,553	205,086	103	10	147,753	108	10	57,333	65	6	28
Malolos	4	233,563	108,285	125,279	326,766	64	7	284,910	59	7	41,856	83	7	13
Olongapo	1	2,696,281	777,853	1,918,427	563,882	33	1	465,617	34	2	98,265	37	3	17
Palayan	5	233,611	69,260	164,351	125,557	117	12	118,731	112	11	6,826	111	11	5
San Fernando	2	335,612	120,043	215,570	480,092	38	4	407,325	37	4	72,766	56	4	15
San Jose	3	590,692	176,108	414,583	256,841	82	8	226,149	77	8	30,692	96	8	12
San Jose del Monte	2	820,270	269,201	551,069	423,013	43	6	312,769	49	6	110,244	31	2	26
Science City of Munoz	5	302,560	118,765	183,795	180,084	113	11	110,751	115	12	69,333	58	5	39
Tarlac	1	1,145,142	395,764	749,378	496,129	36	3	370,577	41	5	125,552	25	1	25
Region 4		17,068,623	4,902,936	12,165,687	7,629,474			5,925,494			1,703,980			22
Antipolo	1	1,891,689	706,550	1,185,138	913,248	21	4	761,680	20	2	151,568	20	4	17
Batangas	1	2,083,497	460,048	1,623,449	985,531	18	2	717,006	22	3	268,524	13	2	27
Calamba	1	2,253,019	377,481	1,875,538	1,071,096	16	1	626,400	23	4	444,696	8	1	42
Calapan	3	392,752	93,364	299,388	246,100	86	11	208,162	80	11	37,937	88	11	15
Cavite	4	383,660	126,672	256,988	218,033	96	12	179,998	95	12	38,035	87	10	17
Lipa	1	1,107,207	241,308	865,899	572,198	32	6	492,781	32	6	79,417	52	7	14
Lucena	2	460,694	260,002	200,692	420,685	44	7	375,454	40	8	45,231	81	9	11
Puerto Princesa	1	3,015,126	1,192,111	1,823,015	933,960	20	3	871,753	15	1	62,206	60	8	7
San Pablo	1	889,323	196,399	692,924	416,575	46	8	379,833	38	7	36,742	90	12	9
Sta. Rosa	1	1,926,479	560,648	1,365,830	844,366	23	5	582,561	26	5	261,805	14	3	31
Tagaytay	3	1,666,460	558,447	1,108,012	409,467	47	9	296,901	54	9	112,567	29	6	27
Tanauan	3	571,045	73,902	497,143	405,358	48	10	273,936	63	10	131,423	24	5	32
Trece Martires	4	427,672	56,003	371,669	192,859	111	13	159,028	103	13	33,830	93	13	18
Region 5		3,608,785	1,061,914	2,546,871	1,828,781			1,398,140			430,641			24
Iriga	4	217,999	59,729	158,270	200,906	108	7	196,040	90	4	4,866	113	7	2
Legazpi	2	534,078	163,718	370,360	356,861	56	2	321,628	48	1	35,233	92	6	10
Ligao	4	409,971	32,460	377,511	220,586	95	4	106,212	117	7	114,374	28	1	52
Masbate	4	465,571	198,779	266,792	202,072	106	6	162,692	102	5	39,381	85	5	19
Naga	2	1,231,802	320,242	911,560	378,025	52	1	296,604	56	2	81,421	49	3	22
Sorsogon	4	261,053	93,830	167,223	267,864	79	3	196,655	88	3	71,210	57	4	27
Tabaco	4	488,310	193,155	295,155	202,467	105	5	118,310	113	6	84,157	46	2	42
Region 6		12,037,449	2,377,611	9,659,837	5,426,153			4,622,902			803,250			15
Bacolod	1	1,651,297	207,806	1,443,491	707,097	27	2	619,515	26	2	87,582	44	3	12
Bago	2	933,070	90,794	842,276	331,722	62	7	328,175	46	3	3,547	114	14	1
Cadiz	2	763,898	113,450	650,247	338,082	60	6	301,828	53	5	36,254	91	11	11
Escalante	5	430,322	132,957	297,365	210,409	99	15	171,220	97	14	39,189	86	10	19
Himamaylan	4	615,894	141,710	474,184	240,896	88	10	157,670	104	16	83,225	47	4	35
Iloilo	1	1,566,256	271,230	1,295,026	842,789	24	1	734,795	21	1	107,994	33	2	13
Kabankalan	1	1,246,833	132,736	1,114,097	398,868	49	3	289,347	57	6	109,521	32	1	27
La Carlota	4	335,929	53,382	282,547	189,892	112	16	196,262	89	12	(6,370)	115	15	(3)
Passi	3	431,842	216,932	214,910	221,973	94	14	199,052	85	10	22,920	102	13	10
Roxas	3	545,771	37,796	507,976	273,005	78	8	224,299	78	9	48,705	77	9	18
Sagay	2	786,585	270,055	516,530	343,036	59	5	282,819	60	7	60,217	61	7	18
San Carlos	2	726,345	79,732	646,613	392,083	50	4	309,648	51	4	82,434	48	5	21
Silay	3	521,449	196,849	324,600	249,357	85	9	272,808	64	8	(23,451)	117	16	(9)
Sipalay	4	434,055	79,344	354,711	222,191	93	13	164,485	101	15	57,706	64	8	26
Talisay	3	491,611	211,635	279,975	225,155	92	12	197,230	87	11	27,925	98	12	12
Victorias	3	556,493	141,203	415,290	239,598	89	11	173,748	96	13	65,850	59	6	27
Region 7		19,201,892	8,012,502	11,189,391	5,621,145			4,486,082			1,135,062			20
Bais	3	706,066	71,322	634,744	242,091	87	10	167,608	98	10	74,483	55	4	31
Bayawan	3	790,367	135,454	654,912	347,501	58	4	287,634	58	4	59,868	62	5	17
Canlaon	4	520,969	22,784	498,185	158,918	116	12	135,257	111	12	23,661	101	11	15
Cebu	1	9,954,525	5,958,486	3,996,039	2,135,013	7	1	1,623,940	7	1	511,073	6	1	24
Danao	3	511,153	103,302	407,851	256,903	81	7	199,701	84	8	57,203	66	6	22
Dumaguete	3	656,989	75,492	581,497	253,416	83	8	197,607	86	9	55,810	68	7	22
Lapu-lapu	1	1,914,670	508,788	1,405,881	583,927	30	3	486,944	33	3	96,984	40	3	17
Mandaue	1	1,832,130	511,210	1,320,920	616,629	29	2	504,772	31	2	111,857	30	2	18
Tagbilaran	3	554,103	167,805	386,298	279,549	75	6	247,697	76	6	31,852	94	10	11
Talisay	4	650,919	87,526	563,393	250,544	84	9	203,568	82	7	46,976	78	8	19
Tanjay	4	359,421	132,230	227,192	213,080	98	11	167,556	99	11	45,524	79	9	21
Toledo	3	750,581	238,102	512,479	283,571	74	5	263,799	68	5	19,772	105	12	7
Region 8		4,688,958	817,376	3,871,581	1,588,817			1,254,176			334,641			21
Calbayog	1	1,304,872	253,496	1,051,375	444,026	42	3	356,434	43	3	87,592	43	3	20
Maasin	4	402,805	175,179	227,626	201,090	107	4	109,700	116	4	91,390	41	2	45
Ormoc	1	1,557,861	83,152	1,474,710	484,871	37	1	361,043	42	2	123,829	26	1	26
Tacloban	1	1,423,420	305,550	1,117,871	458,829	41	2	426,999	36	1	31,830	95	4	7
Region 9		6,914,149	866,625	6,047,523	2,416,995			1,662,134			754,861			31
Dapitan	3	420,827	58,302	362,525	238,502	90	4	188,875	92	4	49,627	75	5	21
Dipolog	3	790,168	151,301	638,868	275,917	76	3	219,162	79	3	56,755	67	4	21
Isabela	5	344,809	120,563	224,246	200,402	109	5	116,126	114	5	84,275	45	2	42
Pagadian	2	1,323,925	127,571	1,196,354	332,801	61	2	253,607	70	2	79,194	53	3	24
Zamboanga	1	4,034,419	408,890	3,625,530	1,369,373	11	1	884,364	14	1	485,009	7	1	35
Region 10		11,014,513	4,084,717	6,929,795	3,691,680			3,222,435			469,245			13
Cagayan de Oro	1	2,929,660	1,217,417	1,712,243	975,897	19	1	824,363	17	1	151,534	21	1	16
Gingoog	2	825,594	76,218	749,376	328,867	63	5	247,983	75	6	80,884	50	3	25
Iligan	1	3,739,613	2,031,043	1,708,570	868,680	22	2	815,120	18	2	53,560	71	5	6
Malaybalay	1	1,765,725	409,639	1,356,086	476,817	30	3	379,004	39	3	97,813	38	2	21
Oroquieta	4	405,623	65,966	339,657	195,561	110	7	180,480	94	7	15,081	108	6	8
Ozamis	3	483,167	92,036	391,132	316,570	67	6	311,614	50	4	4,956	112	8	2
Tangub	4	401,674	41,543	360,132	168,515	115	8	157,496	105	8	11,019	110	7	7
Valencia	3	463,457	150,857	312,600	360,773	54	4	306,375	52	5	54,398	69	4	15
Region 11		5,986,759	1,694,515	4,292,244	3,712,311			3,383,293			329,018			9
Davao	1	4,151,353	1,197,574	2,953,779	2,436,630	5	1	2,319,029	4	1	117,601	27	1	5
Digos	3	241,794	76,225	165,569	311,746	68	4	269,962	65	3	41,784	84	4	13
Island Garden City of Samal	3	365,019	85,890	279,129	229,077	91	5	203,221	83	5	25,856	99	5	23
Panabo	4	502,483	140,960	361,523	316,571	66	3	264,153	67	4	52,418	74	3	29
Tagum	1	726,111	193,867	532,244	418,286	45	2	326,929	47	2	91,359	42	2	22
Region 12		3,808,389	732,629	3,165,769	1,961,832			1,585,608			376,224			19
Cotabato	2	515,381	139,865	375,516	290,589	72	4	269,339	66	3	21,250	104	5	57
General Santos	1	1,892,623	275,659	1,616,964	784,350	26	1	619,708	24	1	164,642	18	1	6
Kidapawan	2	567,266	168,512	398,754	302,103	71	3	253,216	71	4	48,888	76	3	32
Koronadal	3	578,849	78,311	500,538	376,171	53	2	278,500	61	2	97,672	39	2	12
Tacurong	4	344,270	70,282	273,988	208,619	100	5	164,845	100	5	43,774	82	4	21
Region 13		3,445,515	778,382	2,667,133	1,341,285			1,131,163			210,122			16
Bislig	4	556,788	104,006	452,782	320,519	65	3	274,998	62	3	45,521	80	2	14
Butuan	1	2,159,459	562,372	1,597,087	664,606	28	1	521,846	29	1	142,759	22	1	21
Surigao	2	729,268	112,004	617,264	356,160	57	2	334,319	45	2	21,842	103	3	6
Autonomous Region In Muslim Mindanao		657,960	54,489	603,471	213,264			138,501			74,763			35
Marawi	4	657,960	54,489	603,471	213,264	97	1	138,501	109	1	74,763	54	1	35
GRAND TOTAL		200,682,442	55,294,319	145,388,123	81,172,775			62,855,340			18,317,435			23

Difference between totals and sum of components is due to rounding off

Rank

1-Nationwide Ranking

2-Regionwide Ranking

(PDI-Aug.23,2006)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COMMISSION ON AUDIT
Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City

FINANCIAL REPORTS OF MUNICIPALITIES
NCR, REGION 1, CAR AND REGION 2
Fiscal Year 2005
(in thousand pesos)

Local Government Units	Class	Balance Sheet			Statement of Income and Expenses									
		Total Assets	Total Liabilities	Total Equity	Total Income	Rank		Total Expenses	Rank		Net Income (Net Loss)	Rank		% of Net Income (Net Loss) to Total Income
						1	2		1	2		1	2	
NCR		2,808,015	951,515	1,856,500	1,079,091			848,689			230,402			21
Navotas	1	729,853	259,246	470,607	337,141	2	2	274,815	2	2	62,326	2	2	18
Pateros	1	164,708	55,537	109,171	83,146	3	3	79,870	3	3	3,276	3	3	4
San Juan	1	1,913,453	636,731	1,276,722	658,604	1	1	494,004	1	1	164,800	1	1	25
REGION 1		8,533,439	2,245,223	6,288,216	5,453,540			3,925,093			1,528,447			28
Ilocos Norte		1,279,315	219,219	1,060,095	854,970			664,983			189,987			22
Adams	5	35,289	2,319	32,971	19,528	114	20	15,704	108	20	3,824	103	19	20
Bacarra	3	34,935	15,484	19,450	43,196	52	7	35,386	39	5	7,809	71	11	18
Badoc	3	96,841	14,831	82,010	51,765	38	4	32,383	45	6	19,382	24	3	37
Bangui	4	63,564	10,730	52,834	31,665	85	15	26,752	68	11	4,913	95	16	16
Batac	1	205,735	15,023	190,712	98,810	3	1	69,032	7	1	29,778	9	1	30
Burgos	5	25,407	3,454	21,953	24,326	108	19	18,737	100	19	5,589	90	15	23
Carasi	5	16,354	1,196	15,158	14,203	117	22	13,233	116	22	969	114	21	7
Currimao	5	37,093	6,146	30,946	29,980	94	18	21,666	89	18	8,315	65	9	28
Dingras	3	68,790	12,795	55,995	48,395	46	5	40,369	33	4	8,027	70	10	17
Dumalneg	5	33,825	15,946	17,879	17,247	116	21	13,486	114	21	3,761	105	20	22
Espiritu/Banna	4	18,289	1,599	16,690	30,205	92	17	26,063	71	12	4,142	102	18	14
Marcos	4	23,981	8,148	15,833	31,053	87	16	23,575	82	17	7,477	77	12	24
Nueva Era	4	50,448	3,839	46,608	38,870	58	9	29,252	55	10	9,618	54	7	25
Pagudpud	4	85,938	9,664	76,274	34,888	71	12	25,112	75	15	9,777	53	6	28
Paoay	4	59,575	6,566	53,009	35,841	69	11	25,530	74	14	10,311	49	5	29
Pasuquin	4	55,079	11,727	43,352	40,548	55	8	31,759	46	7	8,790	60	8	22
Piddig	4	43,974	21,347	22,627	37,933	62	10	31,547	47	8	6,385	85	14	17
Pinili	4	77,789	4,980	72,809	46,955	48	6	23,634	79	16	23,321	16	2	50
San Nicolas	3	94,701	21,500	73,201	52,712	36	3	41,691	30	3	11,022	43	4	21
Sarrat	4	37,967	2,183	35,784	32,976	81	14	26,004	73	13	6,972	83	13	21
Solsona	4	65,243	19,454	45,789	34,218	74	13	30,067	52	9	4,151	101	17	12
Vintar	2	48,498	10,288	38,210	59,656	29	2	64,001	8	2	(4,346)	117	22	(7)
Ilocos Sur		2,380,994	474,211	1,906,783	1,353,034			740,676			612,358			45
Alilem	4	52,155	6,836	45,319	36,326	66	15	21,064	90	15	15,262	33	17	42
Banayoyo	5	71,847	6,456	65,390	34,097	77	18	19,752	97	20	14,345	37	20	42
Bantay	4	83,683	15,725	67,958	50,518	40	9	27,909	62	10	22,608	18	8	45
Burgos	4	73,092	6,884	66,208	37,322	63	13	19,006	99	21	18,316	26	12	49
Cabugao	2	154,617	21,592	133,025	78,926	10	2	45,076	26	1	33,850	6	4	43
Caoayan	5	36,844	10,627	26,217	30,902	88	22	20,156	92	17	10,745	46	24	35
Cervantes	4	74,623	43,854	30,769	36,670	64	14	26,773	67	12	9,897	52	25	27
G. Del Pilar	5	62,928	3,509	59,419	23,117	110	30	14,245	112	29	8,872	59	28	38
Galimuyod	4	75,791	10,999	64,792	33,241	79	19	15,823	107	26	17,418	28	14	52
Lidlida	5	35,763	6,040	29,723	22,947	111	31	15,841	106	25	7,106	80	31	31
Magsingal	3	106,043	33,213	72,830	54,951	34	7	32,971	44	5	21,979	19	9	40
Nagbukel	5	57,701	1,410	56,291	28,833	96	25	14,536	109	27	14,297	38	21	50
Narvacan	2	237,858	89,518	148,340	71,932	16	3	37,045	36	3	34,887	5	3	49
Quirino	4	45,256	9,726	35,530	30,152	93	24	22,032	88	14	8,120	67	29	27
Salcedo	4	56,973	12,781	44,193	36,274	67	16	18,290	101	22	17,984	27	13	50
San Emilio	4	49,314	3,212	46,102	43,864	50	12	19,872	94	19	23,992	15	7	55
San Esteban	5	54,076	1,603	52,473	31,662	86	21	18,047	103	23	13,616	40	23	43
San Ildefonso	5	39,747	6,755	32,991	28,163	97	26	13,437	115	31	14,726	34	18	52
San Juan	4	122,630	18,241	104,390	61,550	25	5	28,867	58	8	32,684	7	5	53
San Vicente	4	54,677	8,695	45,982	30,435	91	23	14,094	113	30	16,341	30	16	54
Santa	4	53,666	8,341	45,325	32,012	83	20	22,811	84	13	9,201	56	26	29
Santa Catalina	5	12,312	629	11,683	24,980	107	28	17,264	104	24	7,716	73	30	31
Santa Cruz	3	71,993	14,027	57,966	110,804	2	1	34,045	43	4	76,759	2	1	69
Santa Lucia	3	108,044	9,984	98,060	47,682	47	11	27,705	64	11	19,977	22	11	42
Santa Maria	3	159,092	39,252	119,840	53,929	35	8	28,417	59	9	25,512	11	6	47
Santiago	5	26,463	13,568	12,895	20,525	113	32	20,646	91	16	(121)	116	32	(1)
Sigay	5	51,525	9,562	41,962	25,743	106	27	11,797	117	32	13,946	39	22	54
Sinait	3	122,937	16,100	106,837	70,369	18	4	29,248	56	7	41,122	4	2	58
Sto. Domingo	4	43,143	11,353	31,790	50,398	41	10	29,814	54	6	20,583	20	10	41
Sugpon	5	54,877	19,728	35,149	23,276	109	29	14,297	111	28	8,979	58	27	39
Suyo	4	50,471	6,124	44,347	34,322	73	17	19,951	93	18	14,371	36	19	42
Tagudin	3	82,852	7,865	74,987	57,115	33	6	39,847	34	2	17,267	29	15	30
La Union		1,550,860	481,019	1,069,841	966,293			654,757			311,536			32
Agoo	1	110,254	(6,438)	116,692	78,594	11	4	55,970	13	2	22,624	17	5	29
Aringay	3	42,907	3,326	39,581	49,609	43	8	35,059	41	7	14,550	35	9	29
Bacnotan	2	241,387	42,761	198,626	67,189	21	6	42,392	27	5	24,797	12	4	37
Bagulin	5	19,553	1,275	18,278	26,553	105	18	18,154	102	18	8,399	64	14	32
Balaoan	2	41,217	8,749	32,469	85,831	6	2	34,859	42	8	50,972	3	1	59
Bangar	3	53,465	19,293	34,173	49,563	44	9	31,078	50	9	18,485	25	7	37
Bauang	1	400,698	300,021	100,677	87,207	4	1	81,320	2	1	5,887	89	19	7
Burgos	5	30,275	1,395	28,881	22,111	112	19	16,172	105	19	5,939	88	18	27
Caba	4	70,300	8,227	62,073	32,224	82	14	23,607	81	14	8,617	62	13	27
Luna	4	43,051	9,711	33,340	44,666	49	10	24,638	77	12	20,028	21	6	45
Naguilian	1	101,745	26,146	75,599	85,647	7	3	53,350	18	3	32,297	8	2	38
Pugo	5	25,794	1,552	24,242	27,252	102	17	19,770	96	16	7,481	76	16	27
Rosario	2	46,811	13,696	33,115	60,101	28	7	53,058	19	4	7,043	82	17	12
San Gabriel	4	59,738	9,138	50,600	30,473	90	16	19,478	98	17	10,995	44	11	36
San Juan	3	65,499	14,518	50,981	68,035	19	5	41,773	29	6	26,262	10	3	39
Santol	4	48,386	2,447	45,939	39,132	57	13	29,079	57	10	10,053	50	12	26
Sto. Tomas	4	76,140	11,130	65,010	40,770	54	11	27,880	63	11	12,890	41	10	32
Sudipen	4	44,742	8,994	35,748	39,561	56	12	23,492	83	15	16,069	31	8	41
Tubao	4	28,897	5,079	23,819	31,776	84	15	23,630	80	13	8,146	66	15	26
Pangasinan		3,322,271	1,070,773	2,251,498	2,279,242			1,864,677			414,566			18
Agno	4	49,151	23,269	25,882	34,533	72	31	28,244	61	32	6,289	86	24	18
Aguilar	3	82,586	33,582	49,004	38,101	60	26	30,014	53	30	8,087	68	15	21
Alcala	4	38,879	7,370	31,509	36,433	65	28	35,260	40	26	1,172	113	43	3
Anda	4	48,935	19,108	29,827	36,094	68	29	31,427	48	27	4,667	97	31	13
Asingan	3	84,059	13,689	70,370	50,352	42	21	40,912	32	22	9,440	55	11	19
Balungao	4	29,485	4,393	25,093	27,907	99	39	24,331	78	39	3,576	106	36	13
Bani	3	77,267	9,464	67,803	49,144	45	22	41,341	31	21	7,803	72	17	16
Basista	4	31,272	8,015	23,257	27,630	100	40	22,432	86	41	5,198	93	28	19
Bautista	4	27,334	5,103	22,231	26,802	104	43	26,053	72	37	750	115	44	3
Bayambang	1	86,508	37,169	49,338	77,105	13	6	72,575	5	4	4,530	99	33	6
Binalonan	2	155,951	72,951	83,000	70,420	17	9	45,799	25	19	24,621	14	3	35
Binmaley	2	93,157	35,237	57,920	67,292	20	10	57,245	11	8	10,046	51	10	15
Bolinao	3	57,743	14,191	43,552	63,455	24	13	52,993	20	14	10,463	47	8	16
Bugallon	3	74,133	11,713	62,421	50,957	39	20	41,886	28	20	9,071	57	12	18
Burgos	4	27,631	4,794	22,837	28,019	98	38	22,570	85	40	5,448	92	27	19
Calasiao	2	113,730	29,957	83,772	78,375	12	5	58,430	10	7	19,944	23	4	25
Dasol	4	58,539	14,082	44,458	33,652	78	34	27,219	65	33	6,432	84	23	19
Infanta	4	25,365	5,063	20,302	33,095	80	35	28,330	60	31	4,766	96	30	14
Labrador	4	47,001	3,010	43,992	27,367	101	41	19,844	95	43	7,522	75	19	27
Laoac	4	24,979	4,193	20,785	26,987	103	42	24,747	76	38	2,240	109	39	8
Lingayen	1	104,112	43,527	60,585	82,602	9	4	72,244	6	5	10,358	48	9	13
Mabini	4	34,907	9,332	25,576	35,487	70	30	26,752	69	35	8,736	61	13	25
Malasiqui	1	121,451	36,799	84,652	85,907	5	2	78,229	3	2	7,678	74	18	9
Manaoag	2	93,711	16,196	77,515	52,554	37	19	48,785	24	18	3,769	104	35	7
Mangaldan	1	119,779	10,541	109,238	83,231	8	3	81,332	1	1	1,899	112	42	2
Mangatarem	2	144,977	37,313	107,664	64,323	23	12	55,872	14	10	8,451	63	14	13
Mapandan	4	57,859	26,631	31,227	34,108	76	33	31,100	49	28	3,007	108	38	9
Natividad	4	29,924	10,681	19,242	30,552	89	36	26,239	70	36	4,313	100	34	14
Pozorrubio	2	156,415	48,461	107,954	75,196	15	8	50,519	21	15	24,677	13	2	33
Rosales	2	76,878	7,232	69,646	61,469	26	14	53,388	17	13	8,081	69	16	13
San Fabian	2	50,799	21,594	29,205	58,542	31	17	53,543	16	12	4,999	94	29	9
San Jacinto	3	71,428	63,146	8,282	38,114	59	25	35,902	37	24	2,212	110	40	6
San Manuel	2	82,940	23,680	59,260	60,740	27	15	49,915	23	17	10,825	45	7	18
San Nicolas	3	112,188	89,788	22,401	58,970	30	16	54,379	15	11	4,590	98	32	8
San Quintin	4	55,203	5,056	50,147	34,187	75	32	27,004	66	34	7,183	79	21	21
Sison	3	115,719	45,154	70,565	43,293	51	23	37,747	35	23	5,546	91	26	13
Sta. Barbara	1	101,666	27,489	74,177	75,927	14	7	63,670	9	6	12,257	42	6	16
Sta. Maria	4	28,284	4,603	23,680	29,614	95	37	22,298	87	42	7,316	78	20	25
Sto. Tomas	5	26,071	2,422	23,650	17,732	115	44	14,511	110	44	3,221	107	37	18
Sual	1	243,408	90,178	153,229	169,265	1	1	76,555	4	3	92,710	1	1	55
Tayug	3	55,239	22,113	33,126	42,018	53	24	35,873	38	25	6,145	87	25	15
Umingan	2	32,241	10,870	21,371	58,197	32	18	56,271	12	9	1,927	111	41	3
Urbiztondo	3	60,416	27,284	33,132	38,041	61	27	30,937	51	29	7,104	81	22	19
Villasis	2	112,953	34,332	78,621	65,453	22	11	49,961	22	16	15,492	32	5	24
Cordillera Administrative Region		2,432,752	641,971	1,790,781	2,369,471			1,987,170			382,301			16
Abra		469,196	96,394	372,802	676,366			554,201			122,165			18
Baay-Licuan	5	11,845	5,452	6,392	22,604	52	11	19,218	51	8	3,386	42	14	15
Bangued	1	124,103	32,378	91,725	69,596	4	1	60,363	3	1	9,233	10	3	13
Boliney	5	8,037	281	7,756	20,593	59	15	18,310	58	14	2,283	58	18	11
Bucay	5	6,747	5,493	1,254	21,765	57	13	21,641	41	6	124	74	26	1
Bucloc	5	10,034	1,877	8,157	14,019	75	27	13,254	74	26	764	68	22	5
Daguioman	5	3,203	18	3,185	15,491	74	26	15,283	69	23	207	73	25	1
Danglas	5	20,790	5,052	15,738	17,849	69	23	17,007	63	18	843	67	21	5
Dolores	5	18,167	1,790	16,377	22,208	55	12	14,389	73	25	7,819	13	5	35
La Paz	5	13,970	6,296	7,674	19,799	64	19	17,369	61	16	2,430	55	17	12
Lacub	5	12,928	707	12,221	23,663	45	8	20,881	44	7	2,782	46	16	12
Lagangilang	5	14,217	1,346	12,871	23,757	44	7	18,500	57	13	5,258	23	6	22
Lagayan	5	8,371	1,075	7,297	20,314	60	16	16,397	66	20	3,917	35	11	19
Langiden	5	9,224	2,615	6,608	16,678	72	24	15,617	68	22	1,061	65	20	6
Luba	5	5,846	1,965	3,880	20,941	58	14	18,950	53	9	1,990	61	19	10
Malibcong	5	9,770	1,697	8,073	23,313	48	9	23,078	34	5	235	72	24	1
Manabo	5	33,540	2,659	30,881	54,087	7	2	28,879	21	3	25,208	1	1	47
Penarrubia	5	8,513	3,747	4,765	16,589	73	25	13,176	75	27	3,413	41	13	21
Pidigan	5	9,601	3,131	6,470	25,587	40	6	17,045	62	17	8,541	11	4	33
Pilar	5	24,386	4,258	20,128	34,406	21	4	18,685	55	11	15,721	5	2	46
Sallapadan	5	11,760	579	11,181	18,758	66	21	18,005	59	15	753	69	23	4
San Isidro	5	7,509	4,806	2,702	18,604	65	20	18,710	54	10	93	75	27	0
San Juan	5	6,316	756	5,561	18,661	67	22	15,678	67	21	2,983	44	15	16
San Quintin	5	7,741	952	6,789	20,120	61	17	14,949	71	24	5,170	25	7	26
Tayum	5	19,833	3,168	16,665	23,120	49	10	18,679	56	12	4,441	31	10	19
Tineg	3	32,216	688	31,530	42,768	13	3	37,848	10	2	4,921	29	9	12
Tubo	4	21,717	670	21,048	30,806	25	5	25,767	28	4	5,039	27	8	16
Villaviciosa	5	8,811	2,936	5,876	20,071	62	18	16,521	65	19	3,550	40	12	18
Apayao		345,678	62,793	282,885	251,397			210,053			41,343			16
Calanasan	1	128,726	22,357	106,368	67,537	5	1	49,629	5	1	17,908	4	1	27
Conner	3	57,464	4,643	52,822	49,273	9	2	39,316	8	3	9,957	9	2	20
Flora	4	25,982	6,870	19,112	33,164	22	4	31,714	18	4	1,450	62	6	4
Kabugao	2	61,601	21,249	40,351	47,464	10	3	45,145	6	2	2,319	57	5	5
Pudtol	4	48,570	3,755	44,815	30,509	28	5	23,293	32	5	7,216	18	3	24
Sta. Marcela	5	23,336	3,919	19,417	23,450	47	6	20,956	43	6	2,493	52	4	11
Benguet		742,648	183,005	559,643	528,392			446,685			81,707			15
Atok	4	26,741	5,986	20,755	29,090	31	9	22,664	37	10	6,426	17	4	22
Bakun	4	10,312	3,255	7,058	40,664	15	4	36,850	12	4	3,814	36	8	9
Bokod	4	26,928	10,296	16,632	30,423	29	7	27,200	26	8	3,222	43	9	11
Buguias	3	34,284	8,971	25,313	37,187	19	6	35,907	13	5	1,280	63	12	3
Itogon	1	114,981	37,083	77,898	71,833	3	2	56,170	4	2	15,662	6	2	22
Kabayan	4	23,017	4,685	18,332	28,286	32	10	22,430	38	11	5,856	20	5	21
Kapangan	4	35,517	7,255	28,262	27,611	36	11	23,437	31	9	4,173	33	7	15
Kibungan	4	20,454	8,486	11,969	29,251	30	8	28,973	20	7	278	71	13	1
La Trinidad	1	203,141	51,215	151,926	93,529	1	1	75,597	2	1	17,932	3	1	19
Mankayan	3	43,662	17,305	26,356	40,541	16	5	35,171	15	6	5,370	22	6	13
Sablan	5	42,169	9,449	32,720	22,979	50	12	20,138	46	12	2,840	45	10	12
Tuba	2	109,424	16,095	93,329	54,551	6	3	42,165	7	3	12,386	8	3	23
Tublay	5	52,019	2,925	49,094	22,448	53	13	19,982	49	13	2,466	53	11	11
Ifugao		282,952	79,135	203,816	325,595			280,642			44,953			14
Aguinaldo	3	40,616	9,711	30,905	42,015	14	1	35,723	14	1	6,293	18	1	15
Alfonso Lista	3	37,444	7,039	30,405	38,628	18	2	33,055	17	2	5,572	21	3	14
Asipulo	5	17,426	2,964	14,462	22,179	56	10	20,053	48	10	2,126	59	11	10
Banaue	4	23,688	12,879	10,809	31,643	24	4	27,313	25	6	4,330	32	6	14
Hingyon	5	11,697	2,337	9,361	17,130	71	11	14,420	72	11	2,710	48	8	16
Hungduan	4	26,644	5,825	20,819	24,986	41	8	20,055	47	9	4,931	28	5	20
Kiangan	4	23,214	8,599	14,614	26,916	38	7	21,665	40	8	5,251	24	4	20
Lagawe	4	21,628	4,804	16,824	30,797	26	5	28,353	23	4	2,444	54	10	8
Lamut	4	37,339	4,757	32,583	30,700	27	6	27,926	24	5	2,774	47	7	9
Mayoyao	4	22,297	6,112	16,185	36,060	20	3	30,191	19	3	5,869	19	2	16
Tinoc	5	20,958	14,108	6,850	24,539	42	9	21,886	39	7	2,653	50	9	11
Kalinga		350,171	129,068	221,103	309,752			249,319			60,433			20
Balbalan	3	51,138	3,709	47,429	38,681	17	3	26,143	27	3	12,538	7	2	32
Lubuagan	4	27,584	14,796	12,788	24,350	43	7	20,656	45	7	3,694	39	7	15
Pasil	5	12,670	2,320	10,350	22,285	54	8	21,247	42	6	1,038	66	8	5
Pinukpuk	2	58,803	6,021	52,782	53,841	8	2	34,799	16	2	19,042	2	1	35
Rizal	4	24,838	4,417	20,420	27,635	35	5	22,959	36	5	4,676	30	5	17
Tabuk	1	138,608	91,123	47,485	87,601	2	1	79,534	1	1	8,067	12	3	9
Tanudan	4	24,259	4,051	20,207	27,243	37	6	19,662	50	8	7,581	14	4	28
Tinglayan	4	12,272	2,630	9,642	28,116	33	4	24,319	30	4	3,797	37	6	14
Mt. Province		242,107	91,576	150,531	277,969			246,270			31,699			11
Barlig	5	13,324	3,276	10,048	22,900	51	7	19,167	52	7	3,733	38	4	16
Bauko	4	18,346	4,266	14,080	32,868	23	3	28,893	22	3	3,975	34	3	12
Besao	5	30,714	15,535	15,178	23,501	46	6	23,038	35	6	462	70	10	2
Bontoc	3	47,422	18,982	28,440	45,171	11	1	37,698	11	2	7,473	15	1	17
Natonin	4	21,640	1,227	20,413	25,762	39	5	23,167	33	5	2,595	51	6	10
Paracelis	3	23,147	7,124	16,023	44,200	12	2	39,135	9	1	5,066	26	2	11
Sabangan	5	10,108	2,893	7,215	18,049	68	9	16,816	64	9	1,233	64	9	7
Sadanga	5	13,422	4,147	9,275	17,729	70	10	15,019	70	10	2,710	49	5	15
Sagada	5	20,612	3,598	17,014	20,025	63	8	17,926	60	8	2,099	60	8	10
Tadian	4	43,372	30,528	12,844	27,964	34	4	25,612	29	4	2,352	56	7	8
REGION 2		5,288,058	1,764,421	3,523,637	3,986,910			3,440,306			546,604			14
Batanes		126,644	63,403	63,241	85,526			84,739			787			1
Basco	5	60,277	47,166	13,111	20,187	83	1	24,983	71	1	(4,796)	90	6	(24)
Itbayat	5	15,191	2,848	12,342	18,366	85	2	13,943	86	2	4,423	43	1	24
Ivana	6	15,205	1,103	14,102	11,513	89	5	11,736	88	4	(222)	86	4	(2)
Mahatao	6	12,998	4,419	8,580	11,898	88	4	11,205	89	5	692	80	3	6
Sabtang	5	8,951	5,032	3,918	12,449	87	3	13,115	87	3	(666)	88	5	(5)
Uyugan	6	14,024	2,836	11,188	11,113	90	6	9,756	90	6	1,357	74	2	12
Cagayan		1,857,104	496,764	1,360,341	1,238,607			1,060,959			177,647			14
Abulug	4	57,026	37,064	19,962	34,694	53	18	31,374	53	18	3,320	56	18	10
Alcala	3	46,308	34,336	11,972	37,593	48	16	37,284	37	11	309	83	27	1
Allacapan	3	39,025	15,188	23,837	40,540	39	13	40,563	31	8	(23)	85	28	(0)
Amulung	3	74,233	8,985	65,248	43,738	34	9	35,517	42	13	8,222	18	9	19
Aparri	1	102,237	9,502	92,735	65,426	15	5	50,002	20	6	15,424	5	2	24
Baggao	1	191,861	18,486	173,376	88,036	5	1	59,328	10	4	28,708	2	1	33
Ballesteros	4	42,200	15,105	27,095	32,808	58	21	27,089	62	21	5,719	32	14	17
Buguey	4	57,145	35,930	21,215	34,686	54	19	33,720	47	16	966	79	26	3
Calayan	3	90,479	28,074	62,405	38,708	46	15	35,485	43	14	3,223	57	19	8
Camalaniugan	4	37,837	15,598	22,239	32,336	61	22	30,720	57	20	1,616	70	23	5
Claveria	3	49,071	10,531	38,540	40,492	40	14	31,289	55	19	9,203	15	6	23
Enrile	4	28,252	17,617	10,635	34,619	55	20	31,715	52	17	2,904	60	20	8
Gattaran	1	82,476	27,877	54,599	70,141	12	4	65,347	9	3	4,794	41	16	7
Gonzaga	2	102,412	38,250	64,162	54,783	22	7	48,865	22	7	5,918	31	13	11
Iguig	4	25,150	11,856	13,294	27,379	71	25	26,958	64	23	422	82	26	2
Lallo	2	72,851	36,243	36,608	76,151	9	3	68,921	7	2	7,230	25	12	9
Lasam	3	52,578	8,941	43,637	42,615	37	12	34,296	45	15	8,319	16	7	20
Pamplona	4	60,142	13,097	47,046	30,167	69	23	22,453	77	26	7,714	22	11	26
Peñablanca	1	140,948	13,964	126,984	81,900	7	2	71,091	5	1	10,809	12	4	13
Piat	4	47,879	12,142	35,737	29,972	70	24	24,999	70	25	4,973	39	15	17
Rizal	5	35,010	1,458	33,552	23,082	80	27	20,754	81	27	2,329	61	21	10
Sanchez-Mira	4	33,056	9,466	23,590	35,216	51	17	26,972	63	22	8,245	17	8	23
Santa Ana	3	45,672	5,632	40,039	43,695	35	10	40,355	32	9	3,341	55	17	8
Santa Praxedes	5	13,690	2,723	10,966	15,551	86	28	14,353	85	28	1,199	77	24	8
Santa Teresita	4	44,130	17,680	26,450	27,038	72	26	25,217	69	24	1,821	67	22	7
Santo Nino	3	54,406	9,479	44,927	43,565	36	11	35,666	40	12	7,899	20	10	18
Solana	2	86,437	24,650	61,787	60,110	18	6	50,323	19	5	9,787	13	5	16
Tuao	2	144,592	16,890	127,703	53,565	24	8	40,305	33	10	13,260	9	3	25
Isabela		2,143,120	860,768	1,282,352	1,644,465			1,441,390			203,075			12
Alicia	2	65,081	43,620	21,462	61,492	16	7	54,408	15	7	7,084	26	10	12
Angadanan	3	45,671	20,830	24,841	39,219	44	18	36,232	38	16	2,987	59	25	8
Aurora	4	54,209	18,865	35,344	39,409	42	17	34,120	46	17	5,289	33	12	13
Benito Soliven	4	21,384	3,805	17,580	31,106	66	28	27,447	61	25	3,660	52	22	12
Burgos	5	50,566	24,086	26,479	24,640	78	34	23,620	74	32	1,020	78	34	4
Cabagan	2	22,902	19,279	3,623	53,975	23	10	52,264	18	9	1,711	68	28	3
Cabatuan	4	42,420	34,781	7,639	37,426	49	19	33,709	48	18	3,717	50	21	10
Cordon	3	64,952	26,510	38,442	41,487	38	16	40,036	34	15	1,451	72	30	3
Delfin Albano	4	52,476	29,185	23,291	32,411	60	23	31,034	56	21	1,376	73	31	4
Dinapigue	3	54,505	14,245	40,260	50,149	25	11	45,505	24	11	4,645	42	16	9
Divilacan	3	53,752	2,337	51,416	48,957	26	12	41,095	29	14	7,862	21	7	16
Echague	1	124,449	50,871	73,578	89,104	4	3	75,945	4	3	13,159	10	5	15
Gamu	4	25,674	7,877	17,797	31,035	67	29	26,656	66	27	4,380	44	17	14
Ilagan	1	261,612	125,222	136,391	147,113	2	1	133,488	1	1	13,626	8	4	9
Jones	2	51,504	25,505	25,999	66,266	14	6	58,626	11	4	7,640	23	8	12
Luna	5	24,625	13,729	10,896	24,711	77	33	22,826	75	33	1,885	68	27	8
Maconacon	4	26,615	3,677	22,938	34,224	56	21	32,982	51	20	1,241	75	32	4
Mallig	4	27,077	12,080	14,997	31,763	63	25	27,962	59	23	3,802	49	20	12
Naguilian	4	30,529	2,269	28,260	31,334	65	27	24,480	72	30	6,854	27	11	22
Palanan	2	60,727	6,388	54,339	54,828	21	9	47,298	23	10	7,530	24	9	14
Quezon	4	47,373	24,686	22,686	31,534	64	26	26,706	65	26	4,829	40	15	15
Quirino	4	38,964	18,109	20,855	26,628	73	31	26,040	67	28	589	81	35	2
Ramon	3	59,455	32,728	26,727	44,685	30	14	42,757	26	12	1,928	65	26	4
Reina Mercedes	5	23,828	10,173	13,655	23,874	79	35	22,636	76	34	1,238	76	33	5
Roxas	2	64,726	20,460	44,266	54,902	20	8	53,196	17	8	1,707	69	29	3
San Agustin	4	34,402	11,801	22,602	36,417	50	20	33,351	49	19	3,066	58	24	8
San Guillermo	4	74,950	36,587	38,363	32,777	59	22	28,609	58	22	4,168	46	18	13
San Isidro	5	32,534	8,674	23,860	25,462	76	32	21,850	78	35	3,611	53	23	14
San Manuel	4	27,758	8,888	18,870	31,855	62	24	27,896	60	24	3,959	48	19	12
San Mariano	1	197,014	49,138	147,876	100,889	3	2	86,146	2	2	14,744	7	3	15
San Mateo	2	102,853	43,560	59,293	66,435	13	5	56,814	13	5	9,621	14	6	14
San Pablo	3	55,444	18,634	36,810	46,599	29	13	41,517	28	13	5,082	38	14	11
Sta. Maria	4	27,184	16,473	10,711	30,875	68	30	25,731	68	29	5,144	37	13	17
Sto. Tomas	4	64,631	31,752	32,879	44,236	31	15	23,713	73	31	20,521	4	2	46
Tumauini	1	131,273	43,945	87,328	76,660	8	4	54,699	14	6	21,951	3	1	29
Nueva Vizcaya		778,765	198,399	580,366	720,600			576,376			144,224			20
A. Castañeda	4	103,381	41,091	62,290	149,176	1	1	75,975	3	1	73,200	1	1	49
Ambaguio	5	16,771	3,506	13,265	21,085	82	15	19,480	84	15	1,604	71	15	8
Aritao	2	37,967	2,773	35,194	48,138	28	5	44,461	25	5	3,676	51	11	8
Bagabag	3	62,907	13,456	49,450	43,759	33	7	39,747	35	6	4,012	47	10	9
Bambang	2	92,914	23,614	69,300	60,493	17	3	54,219	16	3	6,275	29	4	10
Bayombong	2	72,014	31,100	40,914	57,372	19	4	49,276	21	4	8,096	19	3	14
Diadi	4	28,576	6,395	22,181	26,299	74	12	21,121	79	12	5,178	35	7	20
Dupax del Norte	3	32,086	8,740	23,345	38,232	47	10	35,969	39	8	2,263	63	13	6
Dupax del Sur	3	59,013	6,853	52,160	43,948	32	6	38,776	36	7	5,173	36	8	12
Kasibu	3	43,934	11,299	32,635	39,334	43	9	33,216	50	10	6,118	30	5	16
Kayapa	3	39,719	5,504	34,215	39,928	41	8	35,593	41	9	4,335	45	9	11
Quezon	4	32,456	9,043	23,415	26,128	75	13	20,881	80	13	5,247	34	6	20
Solano	1	99,709	24,223	75,486	71,621	11	11	56,853	12	11	14,768	6	14	21
Sta. Fe	4	30,058	4,537	25,521	33,278	57	2	31,304	54	2	1,974	64	2	6
Villaverde	5	27,259	6,263	20,995	21,811	81	14	19,505	83	14	2,306	62	12	11
Quirino		382,424	145,087	237,337	297,712			276,843			20,870			7
Aglipay	4	42,821	21,359	21,461	34,754	52	5	34,759	44	5	(5)	84	4	(0)
Cabarroguis	3	28,803	14,657	15,146	36,977	45	4	41,076	30	4	(2,099)	89	6	(6)
Diffun	3	89,817	29,772	60,045	48,925	27	3	42,192	27	3	6,733	28	2	14
Maddela	1	79,532	37,953	41,579	71,782	10	2	68,292	8	2	3,490	54	3	5
Nagtipunan	1	119,367	32,842	86,525	83,346	6	1	70,313	6	1	13,032	11	1	16
Saguday	5	21,084	8,504	12,580	19,928	84	6	20,210	82	6	(282)	87	5	(1)

Difference between totals and sum of components is due to rounding off

Rank

1-Regionwide Ranking *2-Provincewide Ranking*

(PDI - Aug. 23, 2006)

ATTY. SOFRONIO ABAYA BAUTISTA, SR.

of Narvacan & Candon, Ilocos Sur and Quezon City

Peacefully joined our Creator on August 21, 2006 at the age 75.

He shall be missed by his dearest wife, **Pansy Villanueva**; children **Tes & Benjie, Gerry & Pinky, Essie & Backy, Menchie & John-B, Bong, Aldrin & Irene**; grandchildren **Nikki, Joshua & Jamin**; brothers **Manuel(†), Orlando, Hermelo, Romulo, Geronimo** & sister **Aida** and relatives.

His remains lie in state at the Presidential Suite, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on August 26, 2006 at 8:00 AM at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

DEATH NOTICE

GARY P. FIELD
OF SAN PERFECTO, SAN JUAN, RIZAL
Has joined his Creator
on August 19, 2006 at the age of 74.

His remains lie in state at St. Peter Chapels, 296 Quezon Ave., Quezon City Chapel A.

Interment will be announced later.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

The Augustinian Sisters of Our Lady of Consolation
beg you to recommend to God
in your prayers and sacrifices
the eternal repose of our dear

SR. EXPECTACION H. GADOR, OSA

(Rosario Hechanova Gador)
(October 7, 1928)
Who passed away on August 22, 2006 at the age of 77.

MAY SHE REST IN PEACE

Funeral Mass will be on August 24, 2006 at 8:30 a.m. at the La Consolacion Convent Chapel, 273 Santolan Road, San Juan, Metro Manila.

Interment will follow at the La Loma Cemetery immediately after the Mass.

NORMA C. SADAC

Peacefully joined our Creator on August 19, 2006 at the age of 66.

Her loving husband **Ric**; children **Francis** and **Judd**; brothers and sisters and other relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the La Funeraria Paz at G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on August 25, 2006 at the Marikina Loyola Memorial Park after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
Tel. Nos. Q.C.: 712-3001 • 743-6502
Manila – 711-6931 to 35

NAME OF DECEASED	PLACE OF VIEWING	INTERMENT CREMATION	
		DATE & TIME	PLACE
Elisha Athaliah O. Martin	Chapel C-11, Q.C.	August 24, 2006 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass	Paz Crematory
Go T. Ong	Chapel A-1, Q.C.	to be announced later	to be announced later

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CREBA, government partners to hold annual convention in October

Showm from left are: Ambassador Gene Calonge, Overseas Absentee Voting Secretariat; Asec. Celia Alba, HUDCC; Usec Eduardo Jarques, Jr., DOT; Asec. Pamelia Yabut, HUDCC; PCT, TPB; Dir. Rafaelito Taruc, BOI; Dir. Ernesto Ordonez, Pres. – Philippine Retirement Authority.

THE CHAMBER OF REAL ESTate and Builders' Associations (CREBA) officially launched its Annual National Convention during its monthly business meeting last July 27 with its convention partners, Department of Foreign affairs, department of Tourism, Housing and Urban Coordinating Council, Board of Investment and Philippine Retirement Authority.

The real estate convention held annually by Creba will be held on October 19 to 21, 2006 at the Camp John hay, Baguio City, with its theme: "Pro-active Response to Property Trends & Opportunities."

Techie Bautista and Pedro Tario, convention chair and national president, respectively said that aside from providing participants the rare opportunity to enjoy the cool ambiance and posh facilities of Camp John Hay, the convention more importantly aims to provide the forum for real estate stakeholders to be apprised of recent business opportunities and trends gathering momentum in the world's real estate market and the response thereto by Creba and its convention partners.

The agencies will spearhead specific conferences as follows: DFA on the merits of the dual citizenship law to former Filipinos wanting to invest in Philippine properties, DOT on finding new markets emanating from health and wellness programs, HUDCC on Pagibig midterm and long term funding programs, BOI on incentives for foreign investments in real estate, and the PRA on promoting the Philippines as a retirement haven.

Interested participants may call CREBA Secretariat at 373-2270 to 75.

People, Events & Products

Novartis Philippines helps Hospicio de San Jose kids

BEING A GOOD MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY HAS BEEN AT THE heart of the success of Novartis in the past 10 years. Held every year to mark the month in which the company was founded in 1996, the "Community Partnership Day" reflects the commitment of Novartis and its associates to corporate citizenship.

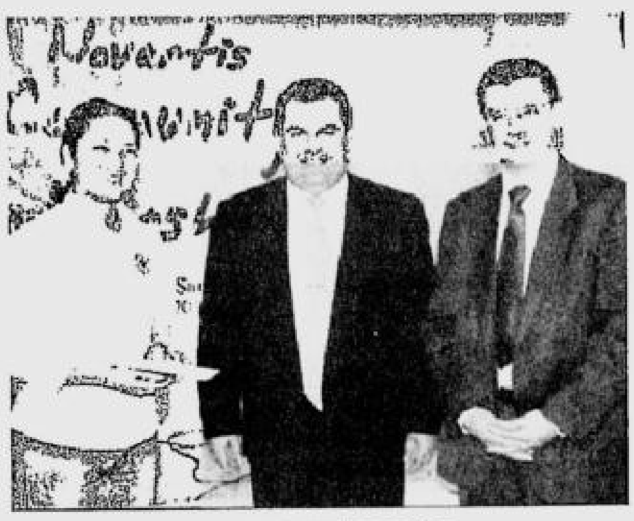
On April 7, 60 associates of Novartis Philippines participated in the CPD. The day was spent with children at the Hospicio de San Jose, home to more than 300 people from various ages and origins.

Together, associates and children replaced the beddings and curtains, painted the building facade and two floors of the Tahan Center (a temporary shelter for the needy), repainted the playground, and planted trees in the playground area.

The CPD coincided with the company's 10th anniversary celebrations. In the presence of German Peruyero, Novartis Philippines' president and CEO and Dr. Juergen Brokatzky-Geiger, global head of human resources at Novartis, the event started with beautiful songs from children. Later in the day, another highlight was the donation of cash and medicines to the victims of Southern Leyte mudslide. The donation was coursed through the Philippine National Red Cross represented by Gwendolyn Pang, fund generation department.

Novartis associates gathered during the closing ceremony at the Immaculate Heart Auditorium. The children danced and sang "Welcome to the Family" to express their gratitude to Novartis for being part of their family for two consecutive years. Each child was given a pair of shoes as a souvenir in preparation for the school opening in June. Novartis also donated medicines such as Tegretol, Gerber products and other essential healthcare items to the institution.

Closing the ceremony, Peruyero said, "The annual Community Partnership Day is a powerful component of our corporate citizenship program. It reinforces our strong commitment to social responsibility."



NOVARTIS TIES UP WITH PNRC
Gwendolyn Pang, fund generation director of the Philippine National Red Cross, receives the cash and medicine donation of Novartis for the benefit of Southern Leyte mudslide victims. The donations were handed by German Peruyero, Novartis Healthcare Philippines' president and CEO and Dr. Juergen Brokatzky-Geiger, global head of human resources at Novartis.

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

Date: August 10, 2006

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Construction of Permanent Steel Pole Structure at C5 Section of the Sucat-Araneta 230 kV Transmission Line
(Sp06.SATL.Lc-0072)

Erection and Construction of the Permanent Steel Pole Structure and Dismantling of Existing Woods Poles at C5 Section of the Sucat-Araneta 230 kV Transmission Line.

The Project is located along C5 Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila, Island of Luzon.

1. The **National Transmission Corporation (TransCo)**, through the **Annual Corporate Budget for the contract approved by the governing board**, intends to apply the sum of **Philippine Pesos P9,205,640.00** being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **Construction of Permanent Steel Pole Structure at C5 Section of the Sucat-Araneta 230 kV Transmission Line (Sp06.SATL.Lc-0072)**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The **National Transmission Corporation (TransCo)** now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for **furnishing labor, materials, equipment (except materials specified to be furnished by TransCo) supplies and tools to complete the stringing works of the Project.** Bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs on or before date and time stated below at the address given below and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom upon payment of non-refundable fee stated below. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated using a non discretionary **"pass/fail"** criteria. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents stated below. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents. The read PCAB License and Registration Particular required should be as follows:

License Particular	**at least Category "C and/or D" - Sp. Electrical Works**
Registration Particular	**at least "Small B" - Electrical Works**

3. Bidding will be conducted through public bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contact will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.
4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from **TransCo** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the BCMD at the address given below.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee stated below. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative starting from the schedule specified below.
6. **TransCo will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on the schedule specified below.**
7. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before the schedule of submission and opening specified below. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any form and in amount stated in the Bidding Documents or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. The Contractor shall complete the works within **One Hundred Twenty (120) Calendar days** counted from the effective date stated in the Notice to Proceed.
9. **TransCo** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

	Activity	Date	Venue
a	Issuance of Eligibility Documents	Starting August 14, 2006, 8.00 AM to 5 00 PM	BCMD office address below
b	Submission & Opening of Eligibility Documents	August 31, 2006, 1 30 PM	BCMD office address below
c	Issuance of Bidding Documents	Starting September 15, 2006, 8 00 AM to 5 00 PM	BCMD office address below
d	Pre-bid Conference	September 21, 2006, 1 30 PM	BCMD office address below
e	Bid Submission & Opening	September 29, 2006, 9 00 AM	BCMD office address below

Cost of Eligibility Documents per copy	P 600.00
Cost of Bidding Documents per copy	P 5,000.00

The address of the BAC Secretariat is:

MR. JOSE MARI M. ILAGAN
Manager, **Bids and Contracts Management Department**
Ground Floor, TransCo Main Building,
National Transmission Corporation
Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road,
Diliman, Quezon City 1104
Telephone Nos. 981-2308, 981-2212; 981-2213
Facsimile No. 921-2308
Email Address jmilagan@transco.ph
Website Address www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) **GUILLERMO R. REDOBLADO**
VP-Luzon Operation & Maintenance
& Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI - August 15 & 23, 2006)

An enchanted evening of Latin dance

A MAGICAL NIGHT OF LATIN DANCES BY TV-movie stars and dancesports superstars--William Martinez, Mystica, Joshua Zamora, Miguel de Serna, Edna Ledesma, and Cecil Go--will be held tonight starting 7 p.m. at the Makati Sports Club in Makati City.

William, Joshua, Mystica and Miguel, all winners of "Shall we Dance?", the celebrity dance challenge on ABC 5 every Sunday, will once more show their dancing prowess with hot Latin numbers in the evening show titled "Enchantment."

Regine, the "Dance Diva" and one of the judges on "Shall we Dance?", will do a romantic Rhumba and Belly dance. Mystica, the "Split Queen" and Miguel, one of the country's foremost dancesport champions who got a perfect 10 from the judges of "Shall we Dance?" will do a hot cha-cha number. Edna, a celebrated Latin Dance superstar who will be partnered with Cecil will perform Argentine Tango.

A host of the country's top Latin dancers will also grace the show--undefeated junior and youth dancesport champions Reynier Mercado and Judith Anne Melencio; Jennivive Camacho, choreographer of the show; Flora Logario, Carol Bacera, Reggie Perico, Richard Obong, Ronnie Vergara, Arthur Eroles, Marian Camacho, Olivia Cui, Shirley Basan, Jorge Manansala, Efren Ibo, Dennis Sy, Warren Cunanan and Ely Damasin.

Props and costume designs are courtesy of Juvan Bermil, Make-up artist is Warren Munar. Louie Tan directs.

"Enchantment" is a production of Istudyo, Sayaw, Atbp and MDS Production in cooperation with Superlines and organized by Notions & Motions. For ticket reservations get in touch with Hazel Evangelista at 366-7763; 0917-6281535; and 0917-8996447.

ILOCOS NORTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Suyo, Dingras, Ilocos Norte 9213
TIN 000-716-369 V
Tel. No. (077) 784-71-26 / 784-00-82 Local 818
Fax No. 784-71-25

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

The Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. (INEC) invites interested bidders for the long term supply of the INEC's electricity and power requirements commencing in the year 2010.

Interested parties shall submit their company profile, duly notarized authorized representative and primary contact person to:

THE GENERAL MANAGER
Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Suyo, Dingras 2913
Ilocos Norte

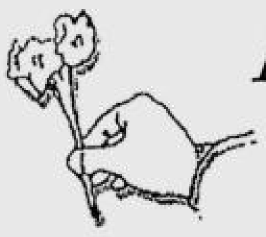
Starting on August 25-31, 2006.

Only those qualified by the Accreditation Committee shall be invited to BID.

(Sgd.) **ROMILLAS C. PASCUAL**
General Manager

(PDI – August 23 & 24, 2006)

KITARO AND ITS FOUNDERS RECOGNIZED
Kitaro, the 'Delightfully Japanese' casual dining restaurant, was the recipient of the Global Brands Philippines award while two of its founders Addie Sycip-Cukingnan (left) and Grace Sycip-Chuachiaco (right) were conferred the Year-Ender Excellence and Model Achiever Awardees in Business and Entrepreneurship in ceremonies held at the World Trade Center in Pasay City. The Sycip sisters started Kitaro as a to-go food outlet in White Plains in Quezon City in 1999. Seven years later it has grown into a resto-chain which has more than 40 outlets serving the public authentic Japanese food at affordable prices. Previously, Kitaro was also adjudged as the most outstanding Japanese restaurant by the National Consumers Awards and top sales performer by the SM Malls.



On her SEVENTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY, we lovingly remember MOMMY, *WHO IS* ***FOREVER*** *IN OUR MINDS and HEARTS...* ***SORELY MISSED*** *BY ALL OF US.*

ENCARNACION "NENA" LOVINA-TICZON

(***wife*** of the late Philantropist, Herbalist, Author and Corporate Lawyer **Atty. Romeo Reyes Ticzon, Sr.** and ***eldest daughter*** of the late Statesman, Banker, First Mayor of Pasay City, Founder of Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), Secretary of Labor (President Elpidio Quirino administration), Philippine Airlines (PAL) Chairman, Philippine Veterans Bank Founder **Don Primitivo "Tibing" Lovina Sr.** and the late Philantropist **Doña Ruperta Herrero Lovina**)

1997 Gintong Sikap Awardee
(Federation of Filipino Consumers, Inc.)

1997 Gintong Ina Awardee
(Parangal ng Bayan Awards)

1997 Highest Achievement Awardee
(New Life on Family Development & Youth Council, Inc.)

1998 Golden Heart Public Service Awardee
(Development of Filipino Youth, Inc.)

who died in the Grace of our Lord on August 23, 1999 3:40 A.M. at Makati Medical Center at the age of 78.

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches today, August 23, 2006

Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene *Quiapo, Manila*	*5:00 A.M.*
National Shrine of the Most Holy Rosary *Sto. Domingo, Quezon City*	*5:45 A.M.*
Mt. Carmel Shrine *Doña J. Rodriguez Street, New Manila, Quezon City*	*6:00 A.M.*
St. Francis Parish Church *Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City*	*6:00 A.M.*
Sanctuario de San Antonio *McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City*	*6:15 A.M.*
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Church *Magallanes Village, Makati City*	*6:15 A.M.*
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish *N. Garcia cor. Kalayaan Avenue, Bel-Air II, Makati City*	*6:30 A.M.*
Immaculate Concepcion Parish *P. Burgos Street, Antipolo, Rizal*	*6:30 A.M.*
Parish of Our Lady of Fatima *Rodriguez Avenue & Capinpin Street, Bangkal, Makati City*	*6:30 A.M.*
St. John Bosco Parish *A. Arnaiz Ave., cor. Amorsolo St., Makati City*	*7:30 A.M.*
Redemptorist Church *Baclaran, Parañaque*	*5:30 P.M.*
Harrison Plaza Chapel *Harrison Plaza Shopping City, Malate, Manila*	*12:00 N.N.* *& 5:30 P.M.*
Shrine of Mary Queen of Peace *Our Lady of EDSA, Quezon City*	*5:30 P.M.*
Christ the King Parish *Green Meadows Avenue, Quezon City*	*6:00 P.M.*
Malate Catholic Church *2000 M.H. Del Pilar, Malate, Manila*	*6:00 P.M.*
Mary the Queen Parish *Madison Street, Greenhills, San Juan*	*6:00 P.M.*
Our Lady of Assumption Parish *Asuncion Street, Malate, Manila*	*6:15 P.M.*
Sanctuario de San Jose *Greenhills, Mandaluyong City*	*6:15 P.M.*

Her CHILDREN, IN-LAWS, GRANDCHILDREN and GREAT GRANDCHILDREN,

- **JULIETA**
- **ROMEO, JR.** and LEONY DASCO and their children ROSSANA and LITO VELASCO and their daughter RUTH ISABELLE, ARLENE, VINCENT, DR. ADOLF, JULIUS and KAY and their children JULIO LUIS GABRIEL and KATRINA BEATRIZ
- **OPHELIA** and BENNY T. CLEMENTE and their daughters JACLYN, MARK and RACHELLE LLAMAS and their daughter MIKAELA RIANNA and SUZANNE
- **OTHELLO** and LIZA ROÑO and their children RAYMOND and his children TANYA ISABEL and ROMEO RODRIGO III, DR. MA. LUISA and her daughter MIGUELA ISABELLE PUYAT, MILAGROS and MELISSA ANN
- **BELEN** and ANTONIO V. MARTEL, JR. and their daughter MARIA ANTONIA LOURDES
- **ROSSINA**
- **LOURDES** and EDGAR MARTIN and their children MIGUEL, ANTONIO and DEIRDRÉ
- **PORTIA** and RAMON B. SANTOS and their children RAPHAEL, PAULINE and GABRIEL
- **RUBEN** (deceased),

BROTHERS*, TEDDY HERRERO LOVINA and*
NONIE MONTILLA LOVINA,

BROTHER IN LAW*, BERT ACOSTA*

SISTER*, NING LOVINA-VILLAR*

SISTERS IN LAW*, DING MATIAS VDA. DE LOVINA,*
SYLVIA RICARD-LOVINA,
NORMA DE GUZMAN VDA. DE LOVINA
ISABEL VALLES-LOVINA and
MARYLOU PRIETO VDA. DE LOVINA

WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND THEIR SINCEREST THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO KEEP HER IN THEIR PRAYERS.

BUSINESS

DOF still wary of sovereign guarantees

When it comes to GOCCs' credit worthiness, Teves prefers to be safe than sorry

By Doris C. Dumlao

TEVES

THE GOVERNMENT WILL EXERCISE utmost caution in issuing sovereign guarantees to government-owned and -controlled corporations, even though Malacañang has eased the state's credit program for economic pump-priming, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said.

"When you talk of guarantees, we have to make sure of the feasibility of the project itself," Teves said. "We cannot just close our eyes and give the guarantee. We have to make sure that the projects are good and that GOCCs can handle the projects well."

Seeking to mobilize GOCCs in economic pump-priming, Malacañang has scrapped an Estrada era executive order that barred government nonfinancial agencies and GOCCs from credit programs, and adopted market-oriented financial and credit policies.

But instead of blindly issuing sovereign guarantees to GOCCs, even if it is supposed to boost the pump-priming initiative, certain safeguards will have to be maintained so that the government will not get into a situation where it will be saddled with credit programs that are inefficiently managed and implemented, Teves said.

He explained that the indiscriminate issuance of sovereign guarantees to GOCCs could result in huge inefficiencies and waste of scarce government resources.

The finance chief also noted that certain government financial institutions—like Land Bank of the Philippines and Development Bank of the Philippines—could play a greater role in funding infrastructure and social spending without having to seek guarantees.

He said that if the government were to let its guard down with regard to guarantees, the GOCCs could become too "relaxed."

Under the new financing framework drawn up by Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri for the government's medium-term infrastructure development program, GOCCs and government financial institutions would have a greater role in implementing priority projects.

Neri identified GOCCs which he believed to be in good financial position to help the government's pump-priming initiative: The Philippine National Oil Co., the Bases Conversion Development Authority, the National Development Co. and the Natural Resources Development Corp.

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Campi wants to be part of biofuels panel

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A GROUP OF AUTO ASSEMBLERS yesterday pushed for private-sector representation in a proposed regulating body for alternative fuels, which is expected to be created with the passage of the law on biofuels.

Also, the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. yesterday urged lawmakers to consider carefully the time frame for the implementation of a law that mandates the use of biofuels.

The biofuels bill is now awaiting Senate action. Rep. Miguel Zubiri, who sponsored the proposed law in the House of Representatives, said it could be passed as early as October.

Campi officials said there must be a study on balancing supply and demand to ensure that the mass usage of biofuels would be economically feasible.

Campi president Elizabeth H. Lee cited a study by the European Environment Bureau which showed that the use of biofuels regardless of price was "obviously" not beneficial to end-consumers.

"In the same study, the economic benefit of tax breaks—a form of subsidy—must be further studied and considered within the context of factors specific to a country," Lee said.

She said that if consumer demand shifted to biofuel blends like bioethanol—a mix of gasoline and ethanol from crops like sugar and corn—the question was whether there would be enough locally produced supply.

"If so, how soon can supply meet demand, and would production be (environmentally) sustainable?" Lee asked.

The official said some studies showed that intensive agriculture geared to ethanol production, which entailed heavy use of pesticides and fertilizers, endangered water resources and pristine habitats that are cleared to give way to plantations.

"Will there be enough space to produce?" Lee asked. "A European study showed that two cars running on biodiesel made from oilseeds would need an average of a hectare a year."

If local supply would not suffice, Lee said, importation would defeat the objective of stimulating domestic production, which puts into question the net economic benefit of mass use of biofuels.

Lee clarified that Campi was not opposed to the use of biofuels, but that it was urging lawmakers to consider the scheme's benefit to consumers, farmers and the entire economy in crafting the law.

Campi secretary general Homer Maranan said the group wanted the return of a provision in the bill that prescribes private sector seats in a Biofuels Board.

"It should be the Board that should decide on matters like the ratio of ethanol and gasoline," Maranan said. "Based on the World Wide Fuel Charter (which is an agreement between vehicle manufacturers and fuel makers), the recommended maximum bioethanol blend is 10-percent ethanol."

The WWFC also recommends a maximum of five percent biodiesel, using fatty acid methyl esters.

PLDT-Enabled

To the Highest Mile

CLIENTLOGIC, ranking in the top 5 of the world's leading business process outsourcing (BPO) companies, has invested a lot in the Philippines. As the 3rd largest English-speaking country in the world, the Philippines is an ideal location for many of the company's contact centers. In 2004, the company set up shop in Baguio, establishing the first ever call center located outside of Metro Manila.

Although situated in a remote area, the new call center needed to be equipped with the appropriate technology in order to operate with the same proficiency as its counterparts in Metro Manila.

PLDT CBG Business Head Jovy Hernandez with PLDT FVP Cesar Enriquez, PLDT SVP Eric Alberto together with CLIENTLOGIC signatories.

For CLIENTLOGIC, old technology once "good enough", like digital microwave radio, simply didn't make the grade in today's aggressive business environment. With competition getting fiercer, any operational down-time due to comm-link limitations was just plain unacceptable.

The solution was clearly to equip Baguio with telecommunication infrastructure capable of sustaining the operations of a multinational company. PLDT Senior Relationship Manager Rainier Reyes described the scenario, "We immediately took up the task even under time pressure; the clients considered other options, but none were satisfactory."

The use of fiber optic cables will ensure faster, cost-effective connectivity that has the capacity to support the constant and tremendous exchange of voice and data. When world-class service is delivered at optimum speed, there is nowhere to go but up.

"More than ever, it's truly a global workplace. Corporations that do business here expect consistent global standards necessary for expanding operations," said Nerisse S. Ramos, PLDT's FVP and Head of Corporate Business Solutions.

Today, CLIENTLOGIC's DS3 Diginet links up its Baguio City Economic Zone (BCEZ) operations center to its Ortigas office. Their world-class centers enjoy not only the strength and reliability of fiber optic cable, but also the security and redundancy of PLDT's line-of-sight radio transmitting systems.

In other words, for an unforeseen reason any link should fail, another one stands ready to take its place.

"It's all about back-up," explains Eric R. Alberto, PLDT SVP and Head of Corporate Business Group, "Now they have a redundant system that ensures their 24/7 operating capability. These centers cannot afford to be down at any time; we've given them the system strong and secure enough to guard against that."

For CLIENTLOGIC: Paul Stone, CFO (USA), Ashley Fenton, CFO (Australia), Ian Fenton, CFO (Philippines).

CLIENTLOGIC Country Manager Dan Reyes couldn't agree more. "PLDT has been a true partner of CLIENTLOGIC," he says, "They have been responsive to our telecommunication needs. We look forward to our further growth with PLDT supporting us all the way."

CLIENTLOGIC CFO for Australia Ashley Fenton exchanges a few friendly words with PLDT SVP and Head of CBG Eric R. Alberto.

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**
E-mail: pr_motoring@inquirer.com.ph

MOTORING

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How much will owning a budget car really cost?

By Tessa R. Salazar

(First of three parts)

A CAR IS AN EXPENSE. You're paying for the convenience of owning and using one. A smart buyer doesn't just think about how much he or she would look in a cute candy-colored shiny car in the showroom, but also about how much that particular car is going to cost in the long run—the so-called associated expenses.

So, if a limited budget allows you to buy a "budget" car, then we take it as a hint that your budget for associated expenses are also quite limited.

This, then, becomes the parameter of INQUIRER Motoring's comparison drive among three of the most conspicuous "budget" cars seen on Philippine streets today. Ranged against each other, which one actually has the best potential to hold on to the promise of keeping its owner "within budget"?

Below P500,000

These three cars—the 1-liter Chevrolet Spark, the 1.1-liter Kia Picanto and 1.1-liter Hyundai Getz—promise to take its owners and passengers reliably from Point A to B. They're also priced below our P500,000 limit for budget cars (Thinking about it, we would have loved to present our readers with cars below the P300,000 range, which we think is the true budget price. Sad to say, though, only the owner-type jeeps fall in this range).

This particular variant of the Getz retails for P468,000; the Picanto LX Deluxe goes for P470,000 (It has the P450,000 standard which we didn't get to try), and General Motors' Chevy Spark is tagged at

HOW/ B2-3

Rain dance

MY DRIFT

Andre Palma

THE DOWNPOUR ON MONDAY WAS CONtinuous, unrelenting. Days like these when the roads are wet and the clime is gray call out to me, asking for another long session in the driver's seat. Like ducks that migrate when the weather changes, I too am drawn to make a sort of pilgrimage when the skies open up.

These long, drenched drives allow me to test cars in earnest. The varied conditions that rain brings to our roads: the inevitable traffic, the slippery road surface, standing water on our streets, flooding—all these make for an excellent environment to get to know a vehicle, its strengths and weaknesses.

The 2006 Subaru Legacy I was handed over must have cursed its luck then. That Friday its keys were handed to me, the skies were hinting that some serious wind and rain was due over the weekend. Not only would the sedan have to cope with the traction issues of the impending rain, but also the stifling clip that comes with traffic in the wet. Good thing I didn't know it was payday weekend too.

Traffic was already particularly thick even before a single drop of rain fell. It was in that hour and 15 minutes that it took from Greenhills to Tomas Morato that I began to notice the interior of the Legacy.

Done tastefully

First of all, the cabin of the vehicle is not at all flashy, done tastefully in various textures and surfaces of black; there is a certain sense of purpose and comfort in the general trim. The front seats are supple but retain a sport flavor because of the support they provide. The steering wheel is a beautiful piece that is hefty to the touch but not overly aggressive in styling. Driver ergonomics are well thought out, with all the major controls for the car and its accessories all within touch.

In other words, despite the executive class finish of the cabin and a comfort level that can tackle hours of the worst traffic our city has to offer, the Legacy's passenger compartment hints that this car is first and foremost a driver's car, one that asks to be taken around at speed, for long distances.

It took a while though to thoroughly convince myself that this was a car drawn from the same mold as its fire breathing, turbocharged brethren. That's right; ladies and gentlemen the Legacy sedan I tested did come with a 2.0-liter, horizontally opposed four-cylinder good for 138 horses and 19.1 Nm of torque, decent figures no doubt but not the numbers really needed to catapult a 1.4-ton car to speed in a short period of time. The lack of turbocharger is the main culprit in the initial assessment that this car could stand to be a lot faster, given its pedigree.

This lack of pace bugged me to no end with the Legacy. Make no mistake about it, the car will comfortably reach 180 kph and stay planted there as long as the road allows but it just does not overcome inertia quick enough. Passing what available power to a symmetrical all-wheel-drive system also meant that the engine had more differentials to deal with and four tires to turn instead of the usual two. Things were not adding up at all.

Lifesaver

I mulled the issue until Sunday, the day right before I was to return the test unit to the dealership on Edsa. Lucky for the Legacy, it rained buckets that night as I was doing some late night, last minute note taking for this column.

It is in this heavy downpour that the rationale for this car came to me. In the adverse conditions of that early Monday morning, with the road blanketed with standing water and visibility not much more than five or six car lengths, the Legacy proved its true worth. All-wheel drive is a lifesaver in these situations, ensuring critical footing for a vehicle—even in conditions that would otherwise have led to having to fight for control of the car.

Safety and confidence is what this car can provide to a bulk of its customers. For a select few, this is a car that will allow one to play, lead feet and all, in some pretty bad road conditions. After all, turbocharged or not, this is still a Subaru.

ALL-WHEEL-DRIVE Legacy sedan + wet = Subaru driving experience

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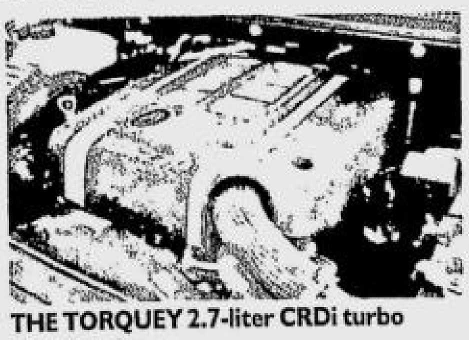
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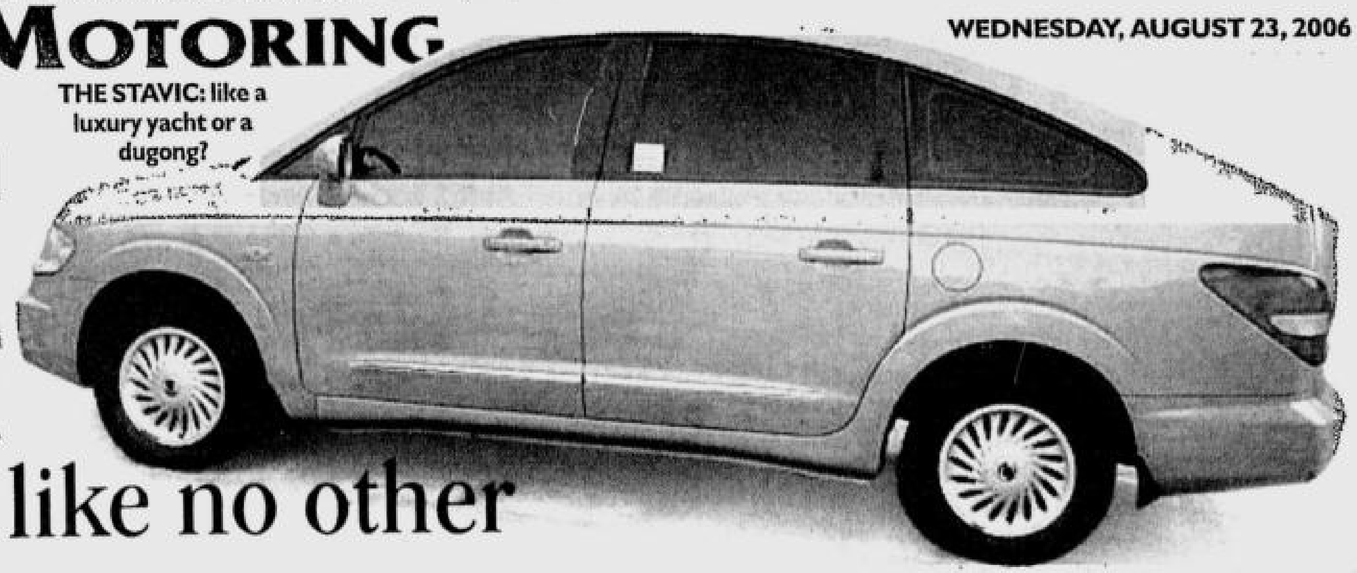
THE STAVIC: like a luxury yacht or a dugong?

The Ssangyong Stavic: like no other

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

THE SSANGYONG BRAND BURST UPON the scene some eight or so years ago with the arrival of a minivan bearing the Mercedes-Benz star but priced, surprisingly enough, below a million bucks. At that price, the MB 300 van was a bestseller even though it was manufactured in South Korea at a time when Korean cars were not yet widely recognized in Metro Manila.

SsangYong's main claim to fame, in fact, is its engine technology tie-up with Mercedes-Benz. SsangYong was founded in 1954 as Hadongwahn Motor, building jeeps for the US Army. It was later renamed Dong-A Motor, manufacturing commercial trucks, fire engines and other special purpose vehicles during the 1970s. In the early 1980s, Dong-A acquired a company that made 4x4 off-road vehicles licensed from Jeep. In 1986, the company got its present name when it was taken over by the SsangYong Business Group and began focusing on sport utility vehicles.

Track record

With this track record, no wonder SsangYong (which means twin dragons) is regarded as Korea's off-road specialist. SsangYong's image as a manufacturer of light commercial vehicles was enhanced in 1991 when it signed an agreement with Mercedes-Benz (now DaimlerChrysler) for the transfer of engine technology from the prestigious German automaker. The products resulting from this technology partnership were the Musso medium-sized SUV in 1993, the MB van and the Korando compact SUV in 1996. Mercedes-Benz later helped SsangYong to develop Korea's first luxury sedan, the Chairman.

In 1997, the Asian financial crisis forced SsangYong to sell out to Daewoo, which rebadged all its vehicles as Daewoo. So the SsangYong marque dropped out of sight for a few years until 2000, when Daewoo itself went bankrupt. With the support of creditors, SsangYong was spun off from Daewoo and four years later, China's leading auto manufacturer, SAIC (Shanghai Automotive Industry Corp.) acquired 49 percent of SsangYong.

On the market

As Korea's fourth largest car manufacturer, SsangYong sold only 141,306 units in 2005 worldwide. At present, only three SsangYong vehicles are on the Philippine market: the CRDi (common rail direct injection) turbo diesel Rexton luxury SUV, which this column reviewed on May 18, 2005; the 2.9-liter, 5 cylinder Korando turbo diesel compact two-door SUV, which this column featured on March 2, 2005; and the Stavic/Rhodius MPV (multipurpose vehicle), which this column features today.

You could never mistake the Stavic for any other minivan or MPV because of its extreme length (5,125 mm), bulk and shape. Its sloping roof line resembles the Mercedes-Benz R Type's, but the similarity ends with what looks like a boxlike overhang with factory-tinted rear quarter and tailgate windows and a rear spoiler. SsangYong describes the Stavic's lines as reminiscent of a luxury yacht, but someone else said the Stavic looks like a dugong.

The Stavic is a case of form following function. Built on the Chairman's platform, it can seat seven, nine or 11 people flexibly, depending on the variant acquired. Whether or not you like its exterior, once you grab the wheel you are bound to be impressed by the power of its torquey 2.7-liter, 5-cylinder CRDi turbo diesel engine mated to a silky smooth 5-speed T-Tronic automatic transmission with manual mode option, delivering 165 ps/4,000 rpm and 342 Nm max torque over a wide 1,800-3,250 rpm range; ride comfort and steering stability due to the Lotus-tweaked suspension consisting of double wishbones up front and 10 links at the rear and fuel efficiency averaging 12.5 liters per 100 kilometers despite the Stavic's weight of 2.1 tons. The feeling you get as you drive the Stavic is that it is strong, comfortable, stable.

AWD with ESP

And safe. The monocoque body, dual front airbags, ventilated disc brakes on all four wheels, torque-on-demand AWD (all-wheel-drive) and ESP (electronic stability program) that activates the EBD (electronic brake-force distribution), ABS (antilock brake system), traction control system and brake assist system when necessary, add up to a compleat active and passive safety package.

Inside, the Stavic offers elegance, craftsmanship and convenient features equivalent to that of a luxury car. The unit I test-drove had beige leather seats, dual aircon controls, steering wheel-mounted audio controls, deluxe overhead console with multimeter, power sunroof, stationary center console, keyhole lamp, separate clusters for gauges and operation/warning lamps, a 6-speaker radio/cassette with CD player, storage receptacles and cupholders galore, a CD case, an electrochrome rearview mirror, power outlets front and rear. Rain sensing wipers with built-in sprayer, heated and power-folding side mirrors, 16-inch alloy wheels, keyless entry and a nudge bar to protect the front bumper are standard as is a rather noisy rear parking warning device.

Suggested retail price: P1.515 million.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Don't believe everything you think.

* * *

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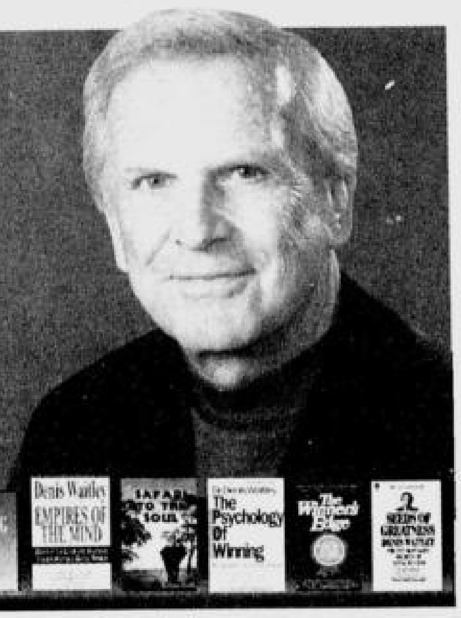

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INQUIRER TV GUIDE
Wednesday, August 23, 2006

Ang kwento ng panget mas pinaganda!
Letty la mas fea
idoL ABC
mon-sun 6pm
Premieres Aug 14
ABC

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Pro Activ	Nickelodeon					Sentro Headlines	Letty La Mas Fea		Doble Cara		Philippine Idol Exclusive	OHA!		Frontline		Big News	The Apprentice	Philippine Idol Exclusive
ABS-CBN 2		Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Zenki	Yakitate Japan	Calla Lily	TV Patrol World		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Bituing Walang Ningning		Sa Piling Mo	My Girl	A Love To Kill	Bandila	Probe	Mirada De Mujer
AXN		CSI: NY (Season 2)		Worlds Apart		Ripley's Believe It or Not		Alias (Season IV)		The Amazing Race Family Edition		30 Seconds To Fame	Samsung Sports World	Maximum Exposure (Season II)		CSI: Miami (Season 4)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 5)	
Cartoon Network	Pink & Dink/ My Little Pony	All New Popeye Show	I am Weasel	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Winx Club	Xiaolin Showdown	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	The Simpsons	Samurai Jack/ Samurai Jack/ Samurai Jack	PokeMon	Dice	Gundam Seed Destiny/ Shaman King	The Simpsons/ Courage The Cowardly Dog	Teen Titans/ The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Justice League Unlimited/ The Simpsons	The Batman/ Aqua Teen Hunger Force/ Sealab 2021	X-Men Evolution/ Gundam Seed	Static Shock/ Shaman King
Cinema One		Papa's Girl				Relasyon				Diskarte			Persona	Dubai (9:15 PM)				Markova: Comfort Gay	
Cinemax					Beastmaster III: Eye Of Braxus			Running Cool (6:15 PM)				Arlington Road				Friday The 13th Part III (9:55 PM)			Firefox
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	World News Asia	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		Cold Case		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	I, Detective	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Swordfish				The Grid	
Discovery Channel	Building The Ultimate	Perfect Disaster		American Chopper		Conspiracy Theories		Building The Biggest		Wild Discovery		Hour China			Walking With Dinosaurs Special	A Haunting		Psychic Witness	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Un-Bikaive Bunny	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			American Dragon	Buzz on Maggie	Buzz on Maggie	Totally Spies	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN						X Games 11 Classic - BMX Freestyle		Asian X Games '06 - Skateboard Vert	Asian X Games '06 - Skateboard Street	Pool Snooker World Pool League '04 Poland		Pool Snooker World Pool League '04 Poland			Classic Boxing		Classic Boxing		Sportscenter Asia
ETC		America's Next Top Model 5		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Veronica Mars 2		Beauty And The Geek 2		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr. Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen (Degeneres) Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Cold Turkey 2		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	St. Thomas More Faithful Statesman	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	Faith In Motion	Truth In The Heart	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Suffering And The Love Of God	EWTN Catholic Classic	The Church & The Poor: Building Bridges	Mother Angelica Live Classics		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	One In Their Hearts: Holiness Of Priesthood	Parable	Rome Reports	Special Programming	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat	Now and Forever (3:15 PM)	Ang Pagbabago (3:45 PM)		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Jewel In The Palace	24 Oras		Captain Barbell (7:10 PM)		Majika		I Luv NY (8:50 PM)	Love Of The Condor Heroes	Nuts Entertainment			Saksi
Hallmark Channel				Judging Amy		Sue Thomas F.B. Eye I		McLeod's Daughters		Strong Medicine II		Trust		Judging Amy		Audrey's Rain			
HBO	Manticore			A Smile Like Yours			Ike: Countdown To D-Day			Troop Beverly Hills (7:15 PM)				Huff 08: Cold Day In Shanghai		Huff 09: Christmas Is Ruined		Huff 10: The Good Doctor	Raging Cain (11:40 PM)
Hero TV	Gosaurer	Gundam Seed	Duel Masters	Super Gals	Mirmo de Pon	Sugar The Snow Fairy	Naruto	Inuyasha	Saiyuki Reload	Full Metal Panic	Yakitate Japan	Mr. Ajikko	Transformers Armada	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	B-Daman Bakugaiden	Beyblade G-Revolution	Gosaurer	Gundam Seed	Naruto
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	EBC Earth Files		NYC Debates		EBC Earth Files		Travel Philippines	Japan Video Topics	Up Close And Personal	IBC News Tonite		
JackTV		Bottomline		Afterburn		Chart	Filter	Afterburn		Mad TV		That 70s Show	Arrested Development	Last Comic Standing		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Chappelle's Show	The Late Show David Letterman	
Lifestyle Network		30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	DIY: Crafts	Iron Chef America		My Country, My Kitchen	E! Entertainment Special		Living Space	Martha		Fine Living Special		Intimate Portrait	
MTV Philippines MYX		Homewrecker Rock MYX	Room Raiders My MYX	Mellow MYX	MTV Hits Urban MYX	Take 5	MYXilog	MYX Fresh	Star MYX	Get Spotted OPM MYX	Pop MYX	TRL MYX Daily Top Ten		Homewrecker MYX Live!	Room Raiders	Band Of The Run	Homecoming My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXilog
National Geographic	Wild Orphans	National Geographic Specials		Bug Attack: Invaders		Planet Wild	Amazing Moments	Top 5 - England Unveiled		WOW! Secrets of the Turtle Tomb		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Seconds From Disaster: Amsterdam Air Crash		Inside 911: Zero Hour	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Atbp.			Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Siya?	Teledyaryo W/ Ray Langit & Angelique Lazo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo Final Edition				Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	In Focus	Euromaxx	Ang Mga Nagsi-alis Sa Daang Daan		Ang Pagbubunyag		News Beat (Live)		OpenLine Live	Kapatid Sa Hanapbuhay	Ang Mga Nagsi-alis Sa Daang Daan		Ang Tamang Daan		World Report	In Focus	DWTV Journal News	Tomorrow Today
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!	SpongeBob SquarePants	Rocket Power	Four Eyes/Upside Down Show/ Rugrats Pre-school Daze/ Chalkzone Big Blow Up	SpongeBob SquarePants/ Right On Top	My Life As A Teenage Robot	All Grown Up	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous	Romeo	Naturally Sadie	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
Qtv	Goodluck	Shaman King	Outlaw Star	Galaxy Angel	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Phoenix	Irene	Fireworks	Damo	Project 11	Now Na!		News On Q	Balikbayan		Irene
RPN 9	TV Shopping				Kapatid Show	RPN Alayon News		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Iron Chef		Three Wishes		Extreme Makeover		Newswatch Now	Carga For Truth		Kerygma
SBN 21								Sony Music Video				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Sony Music Video		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports			2006 FIBA World C'ship Games: Australia vs Lithuania				GWS 31-2006	Beach Volleyball: FIVB Men's-Canada		2006 FIBA World C'ship Games: USA vs Italy				World Pool 2006 Masters		Solar Sports Desk	NBA Access	World Table Tennis SF	
Sports Plus				Raceworld		Party Poker.com World Open 2005				Nextel GFS Marketplace 400 Michigan								BD Bora Bora	Wild Side Calgary
Star Movies	Raging Sharks (2:40 PM)			Sleepover (4:15 PM)			Chupacabra: Dark Seas (5:45 PM)				Taxi (7:20 PM)			Agent Cody Banks 2: Destination London			Out Of Reach (10:40 PM)		Anatomy (11:45 PM)
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Desperate Housewives		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	Rockstar: Supernova		Boston Legal (9:10 PM)		NCIS		Seinfeld	Rockstar: Supernova
Studio 23								Blog	Pinoy Dream Academy	Wazzup Wazzup	CSI	24 (8:15 PM)		It's A Guy Thing		News Central	Oprah (10:45 PM)		Men's Room

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

‘Capitalism with a conscience’

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

I HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED IN "capitalism with a conscience."

If we say "capitalism with a conscience," it's not just seeing capitalists give generous salaries and bonuses to their employees, although that is the essence of it all.

There's more to it than meets the eye, so to speak.

Like, how many among our car assemblers practice "capitalism with a conscience" by showing concern for both the health of our people and our nature? A healthy nature equals healthy people, right?

Recently, I was witness to an extraordinary mission by Isuzu Motor Philippines (IPC) when this company that's No. 1 in diesel engine technology in the world went to Alaminos City in Pangasinan to embark on a nature conservation project: planting seedlings on a 5-hectare mangrove on the shores of the world-famed Hundred Islands. That was Isuzu's way of celebrating its 9th year of doing business in the Philippines. What a commendable move, indeed.

Despite a typhoon battering Manila and Hundred Islands that day, an intrepid group of motoring journalists joined IPC president Yoshifumi Komura and VP for corporate business Art Balmadrid, braving angry skies as they motored to Alaminos City for the reforestation of mangroves. Such a mission likewise had provided earnings to community people there who joined the noble undertaking.

To complete the mission, my fellow motoring journalists and I had to courageously implant ourselves to a motor-powered boat in Lucap, Alaminos City, for the 20-minute ride on waves-shaken gray seawater to get to the site of the 5-hectare mangrove project.

When we got there, only Ron delos Reyes of Auto Review and I had the nerve to disembark amid rains slashing our faces. Understandable. Our egos were telling Alaminos City Mayor Nani Braganza, who was with us, that as true-blue Pangasinenses, Ron and I ought to do it.

"Action with a conscience," I was telling Ron.

My, my, I need to also salute Anjo Perez of Bulletin, who likewise braved the rains just to snap shots while the commendable task was on.

"Mangroves nurture flora and fauna to maintain the health of the local ecosystems," Komura said in his luncheon speech preceding the mangrove reforestation. "Mangroves preserve the health and beauty of the Hundred Islands."

Even if we got back to Manila late at night that same day still soaked in rain, I'll immediately say yes if invited again to join a similar mission.

Nature is our mother, too, and we should never turn our back on her.

* * *

From my piece on emission testing last week is this excerpt from the reaction of Ricardo E. Alfonso Jr., the DOTC undersecretary for land transportation:

"The PETC (private emission testing center) interconnectivity project is designed to end all forms of fraudulent emission testing, including the so-called 'non-appearance testing' which gives a passing mark even to motor vehicles in the repair shop. Under the project, the 'No Testing, No Registration' policy will become a reality as the registration process at the LTO will not be completed unless the results of a live emission test are proved on the motor vehicle registration monitor…With you and other same-minded motorists on our side, we are confident that we will succeed in finally weeding out the 'black sheep' in the PETC family. From a beer lover to a renowned beer connoisseur, cheers!"

Here's to a clean air that we need to breathe in the big city.

* * *

QUOTE ME. Avoid instant braking when approaching a puddle of water as it may cause skidding or throw your vehicle off-balance.

* * *

Send comments to menju@pldtdsl.net.

Ready . . .

From page B2-4

more positive, predictable control.

"When coupled with the even distribution of power to all four wheels, you have a vehicle that is better equipped to handle more (road) situations that come its way—especially slippery, uneven and off-camber surfaces," Mariano explained.

Key to safety, performance

Another key to Subaru's safety and performance is its horizontally opposed engine layout that is balanced and sits low in the center of the vehicle. With all its pistons moving on the same plane, this type of engine enjoys better balance when running.

"Combine this with the vehicle's longitudinal transmission, drive shaft, differentials and symmetrical axles all balance along the vehicle's centerline, and you have a vehicle that is superbly balanced, with better stability and obvious advantages in ride, handling and road holding," De Jesus added.

Both is confident that with Motor Image Pilipinas now at the helm of taking care of the brand in the Philippines as well as the brand's strong sporting heritage that highlights its revolutionary and proprietary technologies, Subaru is well-equipped and ready to stand its ground against the big players in the market.

How much will . . .

From page B2-1

P490,000. They're all manual geared, all gasoline-fed.

That's the easy cost to determine. You know right away that owning any one of the three will set you back nearly 500K. The tricky part comes when you determine how much you will spend in the long run to maintain these cars. Even computing your expenses for gasoline can be iffy, what with changing (read: rising) fuel prices nearly every week.

Parts replacement

Even more nerve-wracking is determining how much you'll spend for parts replacement. The rate of your replacements depends on the road conditions you subject your cars to every day, your driving habits, your car care practices and the parts' durability. Some things are certain, though, when you've been driving in this part of the world for so long, you know that the suspension systems, steering links, shock absorbers, brake pads, compressor belts, spark plugs and tires are usually the first to go.

Manufacturers' specs

Kia Picanto LX Dlx
Max power:(66ps)/5500rpm
Max Torque:9.8kg-m@2800rpm
Overall length 3,495mm
Overall width 1,595mm
Overall height 1,480mm

Hyundai Getz 1.1 SOHC
Max power: 64 ps@5500rpm
Max Torque:10.1 kg-m/3200
Overall length 3,825mm
Overall width 1,665mm
Overall height 1,495mm

Chevy Spark 1.0 S MT
1.0 SOHC
Max power 65.5ps@5400 rpm
Max torque 9.3 kg-m@4200rpm
Overall length 3,495mm
Overall width 1,495mm
Overall height 1500mm

Auto mechanics are quick to add that everyday use of a car would make you change your oil filter every three months or 5,000 to 7,500 kilometers. The clutch system, abused by "clutch drivers," could cost a change after a year. Otherwise, it's two to three years. Heavy brake users could have brake pads that could last six months.

Since we can't test-drive these cars that long to find out associated expenses that go with these, we just noted the standard retail prices of the most commonly (and frequently) changed spare parts, which will be revealed next week.

All Hyundai genuine parts are sourced at Hyundai Mobis in Korea and distributed to 22 Hyundai dealerships all over the Philippines.

Kia's original equipment manufactured parts all come from Korea and are distributed to 20 dealers nationwide.

GM's Chevy Spark original parts come from Korea and are distributed to 12 dealers nationwide.

The Kia and Hyundai cars are considered 100 percent Korean-bred. Only the Chevy Spark, which carries the Daewoo heritage with Chevy technology, sports an American badge and an Italian design (courtesy of Giorgetto Giugiaro).

Subaru 2.5 Liter Turbo Boxer Engine Wins 2006 International Engine of the Year Award

Fuji Heavy Industries LTD. (FHI), the global manufacturer of transportation and aerospace-related products and maker of Subaru automobile announced that its 2.5-liter Horizontally Opposed boxer engine with a turbo charger was voted this year's winner in the 2- to 2.-liter engine class of the International Engine of the Year Awards. The award ceremony took place at the Engine Expo in Stuttgart, Germany. The award granted to the Subaru engine, with which Subaru Impreza and Forester models are equipped, marks the first time a Horizontally Opposed engine has been chosen in the prestigious annual awards.

A panel of 61 renowned journalists from 29 countries served as judges in the competition organized by UKIP Media & Events - Automotive Magazines' Division, Britain's largest group of auto technology magazines, which includes Engine Technology International and Automotive Testing Technology International. The judges applied their technical knowledge and impressions, scoring for the vehicle's performance, drivability, ease of handling, fuel economy and refinement. Based on the points given by the judges, the grand prize, prizes for best engines in eight capacity classes and three other categories were awarded.

The now internationally acclaimed Subaru 2.5-liter turbo engine features powerful torque as well as environmental considerations. By employing a secondary air injection system, improving on the engine control system and modifying combustion chamber designs, FHI has made significant improvements in lowering vehicle emission level. The engine achieves optimal balance between nimble responses in low-speed driving ranges and enhanced power output, thanks to design changes of the water jacket in the cylinder head and layout modifications in the exhaust manifolds to minimize pump loss while ensuring smooth gas flow. These engine refinements and improvements have been recognized by the judges and brought FHI its first award in the competition.

Subaru's current Impreza and Forester models, which are sold in Europe, North America, Australia and Asia including the Philippines, come equipped with the award-winning 2.5-liter turbo engines. Also available is the 2.0-liter engine Horizontally Opposed boxer engine available in the Legacy sedan and Forester X variant.

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LEGACY
OUTBACK
IMPREZA WRX
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Take your pick. Whether it's the Impreza, Forester, Legacy, or the Outback, you are sure it's built with Active Driving/Active Safety – Subaru's trademark philosophy believing that control lies in the synergy of performance and safety engineering. Behind every vehicle's horizontally-opposed Boxer engine, full-time all-wheel-drive, and rally-tuned independent suspension, is an uncompromised driving performance that makes Subaru aggressively different from everything else on the road.

SUBARU
ALL WHEEL DRIVE

MotorImage | TAN CHONG | MOTOR IMAGE PILIPINAS, INC. 187 EDSA Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila,1503 Philippines Trunkline:(2) 727-8333

Colors may vary from actual units available

Ready to play with the big boys

Text and photo
by Charles E. Buban

CAR DEALERSHIPS LINING up the stretch of Edsa's north-bound lane between Ortigas Avenue and Annapolis Street in San Juan—the highway's so-called automotive lane—should better watch this newcomer that recently opened to the public.

The name Motor Image Pilipinas Inc., which owns the brand-new five-story building, may not ring a bell. However, the car brand it carries is more than enough to turn our heads toward it: from its success in the World Rally Championship (WRC) scene to being a favorite car of PlayStation gamers, Subaru needs no introduction.

"It's remarkable indeed that the majority of our visitors here are serious driving enthusiasts—we don't need to tell them about Subaru's full-time and symmetrical all-wheel-drive system or its Boxer (horizontally opposed) engine layout and why these two features are still great—and fun—to have even if they don't take their Subarus to the racetrack (or even rally tracks)," shares Motor Image Pilipinas GM Nicky Mariano.

Attributes

Mariano believes these two distinctively Subaru attributes, will play a significant role in helping the brand develop a niche market here in the Philippines.

With the niche full-time AWD market becoming more popular in the region, Singapore-based Motor Image Enterprises Pte Ltd.—Motor Image Pilipinas' parent company—decided to satisfy the growing number of Subaru enthusiasts by bringing in the latest models while delivering a consistent high level of service to give drivers total confidence.

"Ever since Fuji Heavy Industries, Subaru's parent company, and General Motors parted ways late in 2005, it was Motor Image that became the official distributor of Subaru in Asia (with offices in Guangdong, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand) and took charge of letting the region discover and enjoy the difference of driving a Subaru," said Motor Image Pilipinas Inc. marketing manager Ariel de Jesus.

With full support from Singapore, Motor Image Pilipinas started with its P205-million head office that also houses a fully equipped workshop (including 10 service bays equipped with Subaru's most advanced technology in auto repair and maintenance) and well-stocked spare parts center for earlier and latest Subaru models.

Showroom

"The showroom is simple and straightforward. We filled it with Subaru models that should cater to a wide range of car buyers: the Legacy AT premium luxury sedan, crossover sport utility vehicle Outback AT, the premium compact SUV Forester in 2.5 Turbo AT and 2.0 AT variants, as well as Subaru brand's standard bearer the Impreza WRX Turbo AT. Collectively, they have been known to be 'driver's' cars for its myriad of attributes," De Jesus described, adding that they are looking at selling around 150 units by year's end.

Subaru's genuinely unique driving feel is a result of its symmetrical all-wheel-drive system that provides a completely balanced vehicle, giving its driver a

DE JESUS (left) and Mariano are confident that Subaru is well-equipped and ready to stand its ground against the big players in the Philippines' car industry.

READY/ B2-3

KIA ALL CARS SHOW

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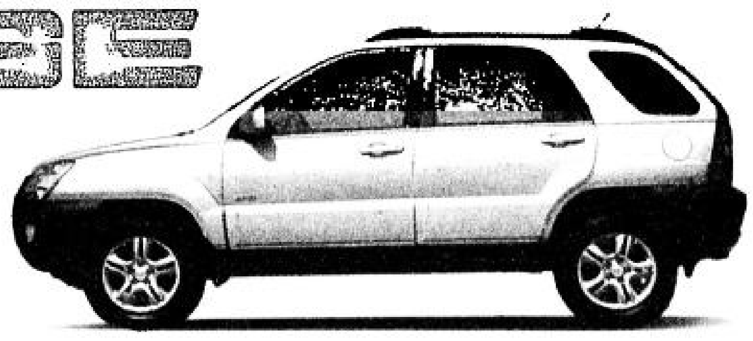

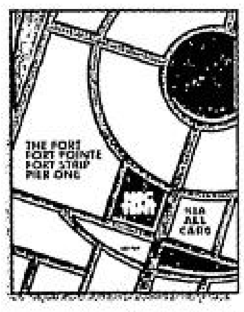

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Per DTI-Region IV-A Permit No. 08-106, Series of 2006

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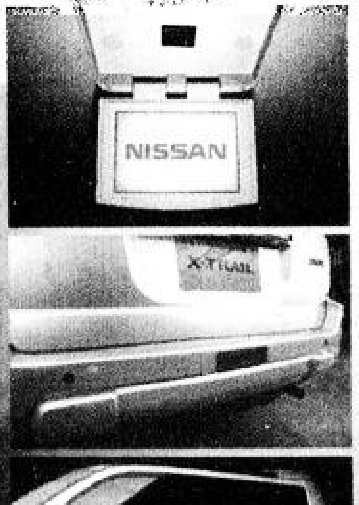

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LIFESTYLE

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso** Chief of Correspondents **Pam Pastor**

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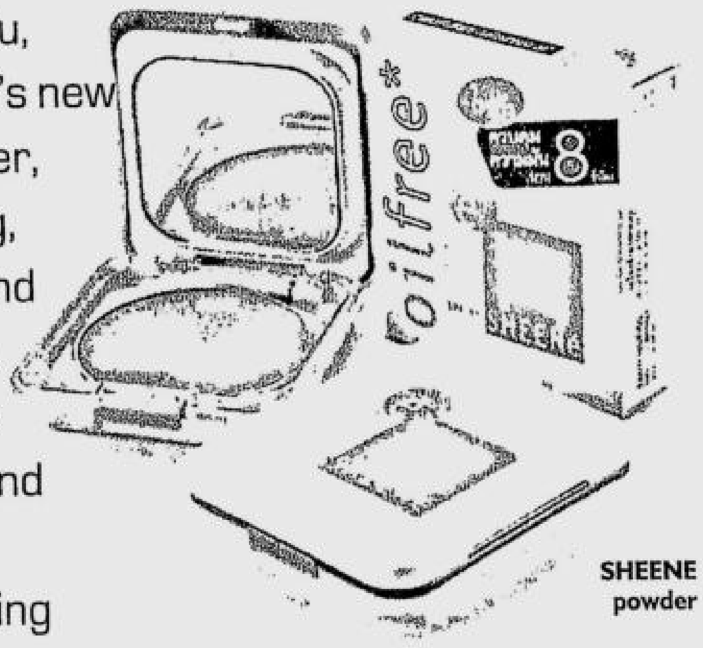
IN THIS ISSUE

- **Join 2bU!'s Click** Awards /C2

She shines

ON THE RISE. Kim Chiu's star is about to shine brighter.

Kim Chiu, Sheene's new endorser, is young, fresh and vibrant, just like the brand she's endorsing



SHEENE powder

By Pam Pastor

SEARCH FOR HER name on Google and 49,500 results come up.

There are websites and blogs created to pay tribute to her, photo galleries lovingly maintained by her fans, forum threads, articles and even lyrics of her song "Peng You."

There's no doubt about it—Kim Chiu has gone a long way since she decided to live her life in front of cameras 24/7 on ABS-CBN's "Pinoy Big Brother Teen Edition."

Things have gotten even better since the Cebu-based teen, who won over audiences with her pretty smile and sweet demeanor, was declared the winner of the reality TV show after spending 42 days inside the Big Brother House.

Television shows, pictorials, interviews and endorsements have become part of this 16-year-old's life.

"There have been big, big changes in my life—from having an ordinary lifestyle to the showbiz lifestyle. It's a big adjustment but slowly, I'm getting used to it," Kim said.

And now Kim has another feather to add to her cap—she has been chosen as the Philippine endorser of Sheene, Thailand's number one beauty brand.

"With her presence and strong following, we are confident that Kim can entice young ladies to always look their best without spending so much by using Sheene," said Sheene Thailand VP Achara Pricha at a recent press conference at Cabalen in Megamall.

When asked why they chose Kim, Achara said: "Our brand is

SHE/ C3

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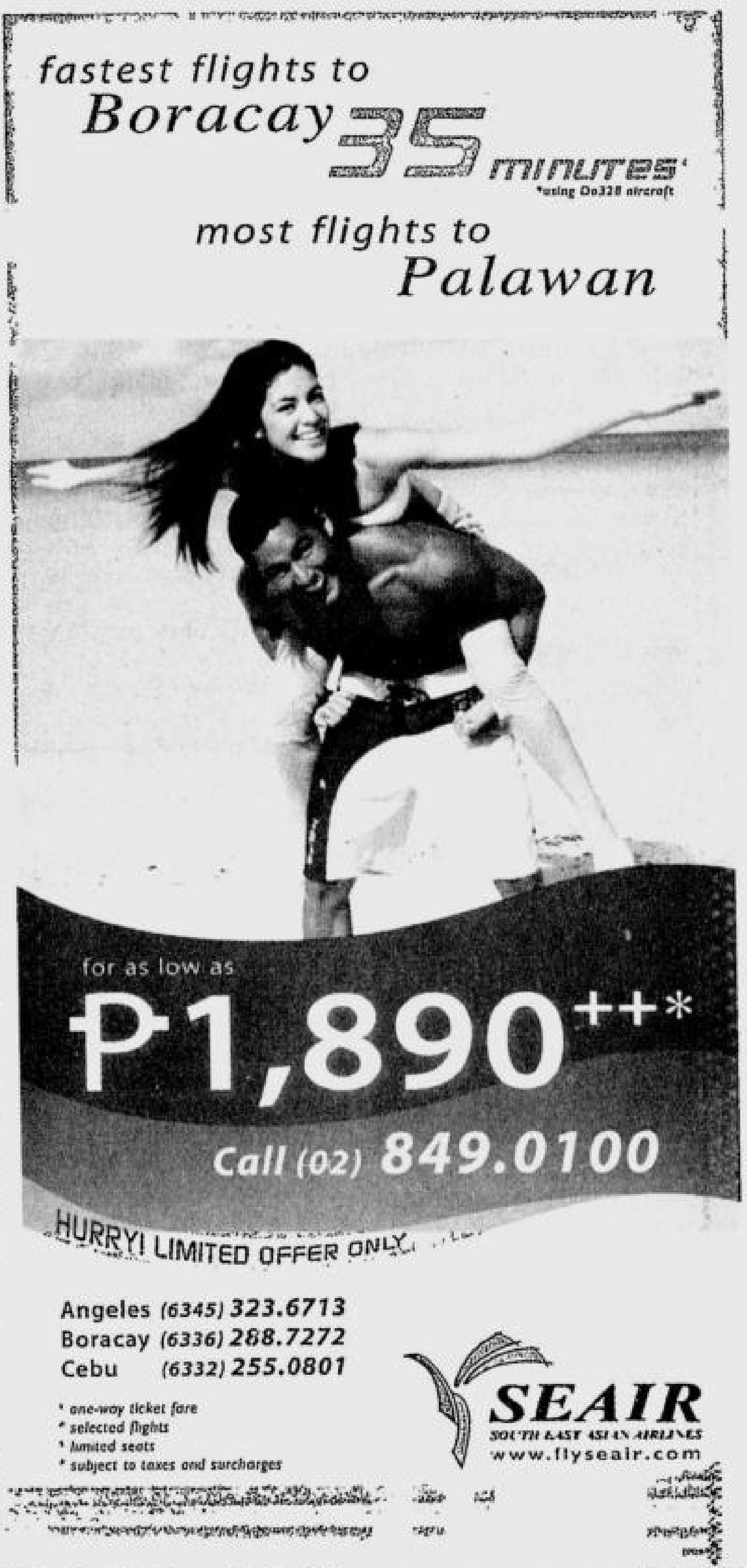

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She gave birth just 9 months ago...

Look at Dawn Now!

After the joys of childbirth, the battle to bring back that whistle-bait figure after 9 months of fat build-up and unsightly postnatal changes is very challenging. Actress Dawn Zulueta-Lagdameo eagerly shares how she was able to transform her body from miserable to bare-able!

Although she swears that every pound she gained was worth it for her son Jacobo, Dawn animatedly recalls the depression and insecurity she felt upon seeing her inflated body right after childbirth. She says, "Coming from a pregnancy, it was very frustrating since I couldn't do much about my excess weight. Given my post-caesarian condition, I was temporarily barred from doing any taxing activity that, for a moment, I already contemplated on getting liposuction as a desperate measure."

After considering all the horrors of liposuction, Dawn dropped the idea of any surgical procedure. She candidly utters, "I don't want to look like a *longganisa* after going under the knife!" Giving justice to her comment she explains, "I don't want the uneven curves that liposuction often produces. I know people who have regretted their decision after the ripple-like curves start to form and become visible on their bodies. It's really ugly. Add to it the fact that it's not just expensive, but most importantly, it can be quite dangerous."

It was at this point that she chanced upon Marie France's slimming system. "Upon finding out that all their treatments are non-invasive, I immediately gave it a try. The next thing I know, I was dramatically losing all the unwanted pounds and inches of flab," Dawn narrates. "And then finally, after shedding all that fat, I found out about Marie France's newest treatment, Ultrashape. It was the perfect finishing touch for people who have lost weight but still have some lumps and bumps that just won't seem to go away. It really re-sculpts your body and shows off your curves. I was lucky that I was one of the first to try this amazing technology. After my first treatment, I immediately said to myself 'wow, it's perfect!' Ultrashape definitely has all the benefits of lipo minus the surgery and all the risks! There's no downtime whatsoever."

According to Dawn, the treatment takes an hour and a half and is done once a month. Four to five treatments are normally recommended. Flaunting her flat stomach, she proudly says, "The effect is already visible as early as the first treatment, would you believe! I was pleasantly surprised to see my tummy flatten. It boosted my confidence that I started treatment on my thighs soon after. So you see, liposuction is unnecessary."

Asked if she experienced any discomfort during the treatment, Dawn reveals, "No, not at all. The treatment was very relaxing. It was painless. The doctor explained that Ultrashape destroys the fat cells in the targeted areas like my stomach and thighs. From there, the fat is metabolized and burned naturally by my body as energy. Before I knew it, my body's once again capable of wearing even the skimpiest of outfits like a bikini. I'm confident because I have nothing more to hide. I've got the body of a sexy 20something woman even if I'm already 37 and have just given birth!"

Not the least bothered as to the criticisms people might cook up about her latest and sexiest print ad to date, Dawn coolly shrugs her shoulders and says, "We're getting out of the stereotype. Even if you're a mommy, it shouldn't strip you off the pleasure to look and feel good about yourself." She adds, "Like in my case, having a sexier and fitter body now makes me more excited to do a lot of productive things because the confidence is there. If my family and I were to go to the beach, I can go out and frolic in my two-piece swimsuit without *tapis*. When I'm free from insecurities, I make my husband more proud of me because we are both able to enjoy our quality moments with enthusiasm." Dawn continues, "It doesn't matter if you're in your thirties or forties because as women, we owe it to ourselves to always look good. Every woman can achieve the sexy body she wants if she only sets her mind to it. There's so many choices out there and Marie France offers a lot. It caters to women with safe and effective solutions for whatever problem their body has."

Prior to ending the conversation, Dawn shifts to a joking mood as she highlights, "Just beware of the consequences of Ultrashape. You'll definitely start looking more delicious to your husband and you just might find yourself pregnant again!"

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Per DTI Permit No. 2340, Series of 2006

THE 2BU! CLICK AWARDS

Tell us what's clicking and win fab prizes!

YOUR FAVORITE BAD BOYS have made their choices. Now it's your turn.

If you're 13-25 or, fine, 30 years. old, we want to know who and what you think is clicking and why it clicks. Nominate your most "clickable" girl, boy, band, gadget and organization for the 2bU! Click Awards. And if your nominee wins, you will be eligible to win any of these exciting prizes!

If your Most Clickable Girl nominee wins, you get a chance to win 12 pairs of Havaianas.

If your Most Clickable Boy nominee wins, you get a chance to win four pairs of Viktor Jeans.

If your Most Clickable Band wins, you get a chance to win an iPod Video.

If your Most Clickable Gadget wins, you get a chance to win a Sony PSP.

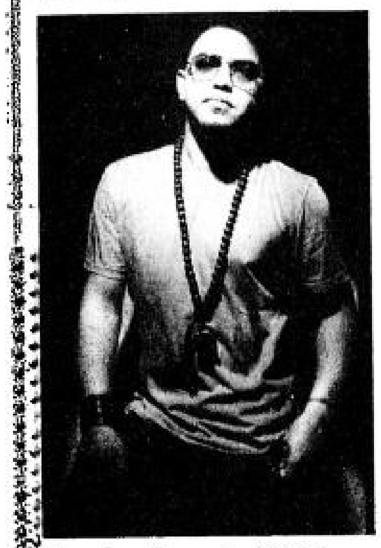
If your Most Clickable Organization wins, you get a chance to win a D&G Motorola V3i.

One hundred lucky 2bU! readers will also win special "I Click!" shirts designed by master lensman Xander Angeles.

You will also get a chance to join the fun awards party to be held in October.

E-mail your nominees (and why you think they click) to the2buclickawards@gmail.com along with your name, age, school/office, contact info and other personal clicks.

Deadline for nominees is Aug. 30.



Xander Angeles' Clicks:
Clickable bands: Urbandub, Up Dharma Down, Bamboo
Clickable gadgets: Macbook pro, iPod Video, Motorola V3x
Clickable girls: Katrina Halili, Angel Locsin and Diana Zubiri

Goldilocks
Soupinoy!
Magtampisaw sa sarap ng sabaw!
Beef Nilaga P66
Add P24 for Rice and Nestea Iced Tea 12oz.
Promo Duration: Aug. 1 to Sept. 30, 2006
Best Served With Nestea

Vhong Navarro's Clicks:
Clickable girl: Kalog and sexy
Clickable gadget: PS2
Clickable band: Parokya ni Edgar

Atom Araullo's Clicks:
Clickable girl: Kate Hudson
Clickable gadget: Digital SLR
Clickable band: The Beatles

Marc Abaya's Clicks:
Clickable bands: Hed P.E., A Perfect Circle, Alice in Chains, The Black Crowes, Black Sabbath, Deftones, The Doors, Incubus, Jamiroquai, Juan Dela Cruz, Led Zeppelin, Massive Attack, Nerd, Pantera, Rage Against the Machine, Razorback, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Sly & the Family Stone, Stone Temple Pilots, Tool, U2, Up Dharma Down, Urbandub
Clickable Gadgets: Xbox, iPod Video, Nokia N91
Clickable celebrities: Gary Oldman, Ian McKellen, Liam Neeson, Adam Sandler, Ben Stiller, Chris Tucker, Samuel Jackson, Ice Cube, Maggie Smith, Emma Thompson, Cate Blanchett, Liv Tyler, Carrie Anne Moss, Kate Beckinsale, Monica Llamas, Sarah Meier, KC Montero, Jimmy Muna, Jean Garcia, Cherie Gil, Johnny Delgado, Jaime Fabregas

Ketchup Eusebio's Clicks:
Clickable girls: Jessica Alba and Adriana Lima
Clickable bands: Team Sleep and my band, Schizoflyz

Click on these bad boys

BAD BOYS ARE RULING THE SMALL screen, and not just with their clothes but with their attitudes.

With their laid-back vibe and rugged features, bad boys draw women out of their comfort zones. Just ask Kate Hudson and Gwyneth Paltrow.

Though they have different interests and different traits, television hosts Borgy Manotoc, Ketchup Eusebio, Atom Araullo, JC Cuadrado, Vhong Navarro and Archie Alemania, as well as VJs KC Montero and Marc Abaya are men who effortlessly exude the bad boy charm.

Check out their rugged street wear and throw in their special bad boy toys—their specially designed clicker accessories—and you have rockin' hot bad boy looks.

Vhong Navarro's clicking versatility lets him take on his "Wazzup Wazzup" hosting job and drama and horror roles with a comedic twist.

MTV VJ host and Kjwan vocalist Marc Abaya really knows how to belt it out.

Borgy Manotoc of Studio 23's "It's A Guy Thing" has a crystal-studded, metallic chain clicker that complements his tan just fine.

Ketchup Eusebio of "It's A Guy Thing" shows off his quirky character through a customized brown leather cuff.

High achiever Atom Araullo of "Breakfast" dons a hand-painted clicker, showing that he is an artist at heart.

JC Cuadrado of "Breakfast" goes for simple, streamlined style with a twist, but with statement pieces, like his oversized biker belt to complement his chain belt clicker pendant.

KC Montero of MTV has a fully studded clicker that says a lot even if he hasn't started rapping yet.

Archie Alemania of "Wazzup Wazzup" has a work-to-party leather cuff that definitely clicks with his character.

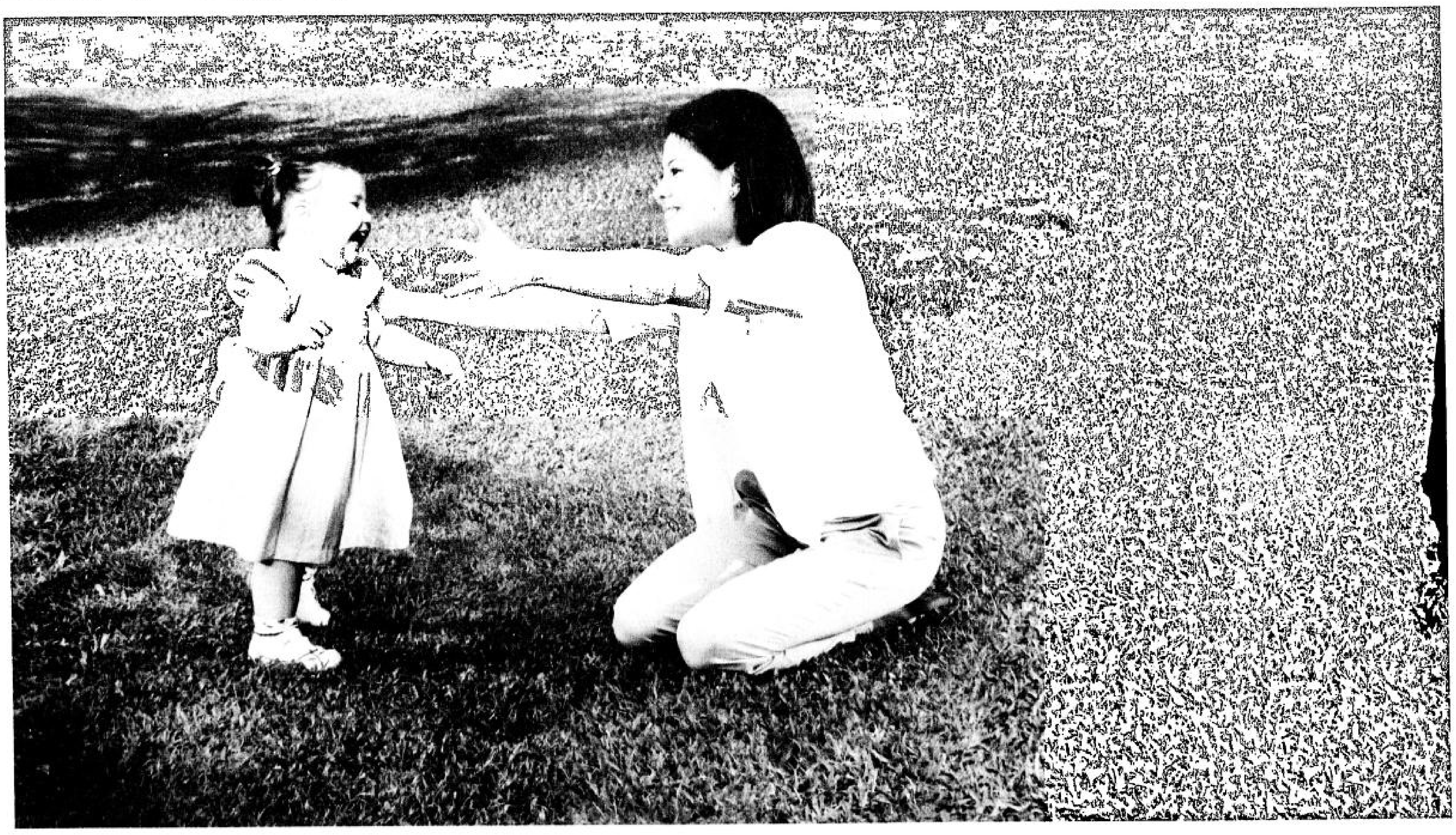
No doubt about it, they click. Are you ready to click, too?

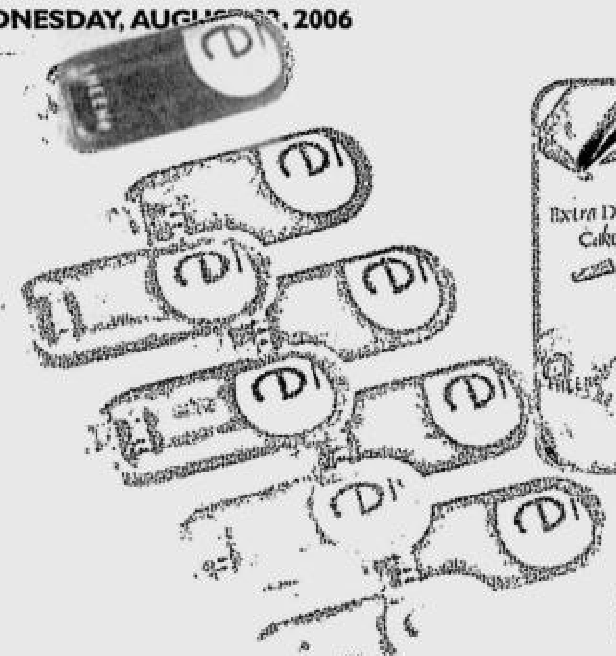
Archie Alemania's Clicks:
Clickable gadget: Ipod
Clickable band: Bamboo
Clickable girls: Mestizas

KC Montero's Clicks:
Clickable bands: Dictalicense, Urbandub, Brownman Revival, The Roots, Mos Def
Clickable gadgets: Phone, XBox360, Home Studio, Mac Power G4 and Power Book
Clickable celebrities: Cuba Gooding Jr., Robert De Niro, Giovani Ribisi, Lilo and Stitch, Arn Arn

Borgy Manotoc's Clicks:
Clickable girl: Of course I have to say Ornusa
Clickable gadget: HD video cameras
Clickable band: The Clash

JC Cuadrado's Clicks:
Clickable gadget: My DVD Player
Clickable girl: Kate Beckinsale
Clickable band: Incubus





SHEENE'S lip gloss

KIM at her launch as Sheene endorser

FAN FAVORITE. Kim signs autographs at Megamall.

She shines

From page C1

for teens and we heard that Kim is very popular among the teens in the Philippines . It's the same concept we have in Thailand—our endorser there is also a very popular actress and singer."

Kim expressed her excitement about her new role as Sheene endorser. "I'm very happy and honored. I have tried Sheene already and it's not only trendy, fashionable and colorful, it's high-quality, practical and affordable."

It is pocket-friendly, too. Sheene's most expensive product is being sold for less than P700.

Since its launch 15 years ago, Sheene has been setting trends in terms of color and beauty advancement in Thailand. Displayed in more than 200 stores and also available through direct-selling, Sheene takes pride in offering not just good makeup and skincare lines but also value for money.

In a previous interview, Achara said: "Thai skin is very similar to the skin type of Filipinas. Sheene has a lot of products to offer them, no matter what their skincare and cosmetics needs are."

Sheene has ranges for all skin types. It offers over a hundred different products in the Philippines—powders, blush, lipsticks, eye color, mascara, vitamin-enriched products, skincare and bath lines, and more. And Kim has already selected her favorites.

"I like Sheene's pink Ju Jub Kiss Lip Gloss. It's pink so it's not that obvious; you can even use it in school. I also recommend the oil-free powder because a lot of Filipino teens have problem with oily skin. It's hypoallergenic and there are also powders with SPF protection, which is important."

During the launch, Kim made her way three floors down to the Sheene display inside SM Megamall's Department Store. She was mobbed by fans who whipped out mobile phones, cameras, pens and papers, all eager to ask for photos or autographs. The crowd, which seemed to grow bigger by the minute, followed her to the department store.

Kim did not appear frazzled by the chaos—quite an achievement for a girl who's just new in this game. She smiled and posed for photos, she signed autographs and gave out lip gloss samples.

"Sheene is for the girl who shines," said Achara.

Kim Chiu is definitely shining.

Sheene is currently available at selected Watsons branches around the city.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph.

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Offer good from August 18 - September 30, 2006
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4085 Series of 2006

Get back on track.

You want to stop smoking but you don't know how. You've tried walking away from it repeatedly, but there's always that irresistible craving that pulls you back in again. And you know that you should just say no. But every reason melts away in the face of such temptation.

Frankly, when the urges start kicking in - or when the withdrawal symptoms start acting up - they start influencing your judgments. There's no more thinking about what your family will think or how it'll affect your day-to-day activities. You are lost to your craving. And you just have to get your nicotine fix, regardless of consequences.

Clearing out the smoke

But what's the real deal with nicotine? Nicotine is known for being an addictive substance, and you usually hear about it in relation to cigarettes, so it doesn't have a very clean reputation. But in actuality, it is only one out of over 4,000 chemicals found in cigarettes and cigarette smoke. And though it's the substance that makes it so hard to stop smoking, studies have shown that nicotine does not cause cancer. It is the other ingredients that are mainly responsible for bringing physical damage to your body.

Better safe than sorry

What if there was a way for you to quit smoking, without having to worry about the withdrawal symptoms or uncontrollable urges?

You yourself can answer that, now that Nicorette (nicotine) gum, manufactured by Pfizer Consumer Healthcare, is already available in the Philippines.

Nicorette is a form of Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) that has helped millions of smokers break free from their smoking habit. It is backed up by numerous clinical trials that confirm its safety and show that it is well tolerated, with only mild and temporary side effects. Nicorette gum delivers nicotine alone, in amounts enough to wean you off the addiction, and without the cancer-causing toxins and gases of cigarettes. Even the World Health Organization endorses NRT as both safe and effective and advocates its use for successful smoking cessation.

The chew and park technique

But how does it work exactly? You don't chew Nicorette like a regular gum. For it to be effective, you need to learn what's called the "chew and park" technique. Just remember these three steps:

First, chew on the gum when the urge to smoke hits you. This breaks up the gum and releases the nicotine into your mouth. Second, when the taste gets strong, let the gum rest between your gums and cheek so that your body can absorb the nicotine through the lining of your mouth. Third, start chewing again when the taste has faded. Repeat this cycle for about half an hour or until the gum loses its flavor before disposing of the gum properly.

The gum now becomes your source for the nicotine that your body looks for when you haven't smoked in a while. It'll satisfy your craving and ease your withdrawal symptoms, but not give you the harmful chemicals that may destroy your health.

As good as it gets

Time and time again, Nicorette has proven to be effective as a smoker's aid to giving up or cutting back on cigarettes. Since its inception 25 years ago, it has helped millions of smokers break their dependence on nicotine. NRT's efficacy is well documented: in over 100 clinical trials, smokers who used NRT were twice as likely to stop smoking as participants who used placebo. Nicorette doubles your chances of kicking the habit versus willpower alone. It directs you towards the healthier habits you've always wanted to keep. And it leads you toward a life that's richer and more meaningful than ever.

ADVT.

Smoking Cessation Aid 30 pieces
Missing out?
Don't think cigarettes. Think Nicorette.

It's time to get the most out of life. Quit the easy way with the most popular Nicotine Replacement Therapy worldwide. Nicorette (nicotine) gum is a smoker's companion in the difficult process of quitting. Unlike confectionary gum, it's clinically proven to help control cravings, doubling your chances of successfully beating the addiction. Get started now and enjoy life more.

Pfizer
Chew and park: 1. Chew a piece of gum when you feel the urge to smoke. 2. Chew slowly until the taste becomes strong and allow nicotine to be taken in through the lining of the mouth. 3. Then stop and rest the gum between gums and cheek. 4. When the taste fades, chew a few times until the taste gets strong then rest the gum again. Requires will power. Always read label. Ask your pharmacist and doctor for advice. Visit the Nicorette booth and www.nicorette.com.ph. Available without prescription only at mercury drug

Win 'Rock Star: Supernova' goodies!

2BU! IS LETTING YOU IN ON THE "ROCK Star: Supernova" craze! Unleash your inner rock star to win exclusive premium items from Star World's top-rating reality TV show. Keep sending us your most recent hi-resolution photos at a rockin' gig, and tell us in five sentences or less, what makes your life rock?

All entries must be e-mailed to rockstar_2bu@yahoo.com—just don't forget to include all the juicy details (your full name, date, place, gig/band).

Each week, up to three rocked-out readers will win cool prizes from "Rock Star: Supernova" and have their winning entries published in upcoming 2bU! issues. So go ahead and rock our world, you know you want to!

"Rock Star: Supernova" airs live exclusively on Star World every Wednesdays (8:30 a.m.) and Thursdays (8 a.m.), with primetime broadcasts at 8 p.m. on the same day.

Here are last week's readers who rock:

Rosette Lorenzo, Edema Band

What makes my life rock? No other than my bandmates! We play together, we performer together, but more than that we really love each other. We are not just a band, we are true friends! And they make my life worth rocking for!

ROSETTE Lorenzo

Maria Virginia de Guzman

I took this pics last September at our school gymnasium in PUP when "Unang Hirit" brought Bamboo to perform. I got to go backstage to have my photo taken with my rock idol Ira Cruz. I also got the band to autograph a poster!

Winners can claim their prizes by calling Cindy Corrales of Stratworks at 7513805 or 06.

MARIA Virginia de Guzman with rock idol Ira Cruz

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sheer pleasure. no guilt.

Having It All

Some people want to live life on their own terms, get what they want, without any hassle. And who wouldn't? Imagine a buff body without having to work out. Or wearing those sexy four-inch stilettos without pinched toes and painful feet! Life would be so much better! In fact, it would be just like Coke Light-- all the great taste you love, and none of the calories you don't. You can have as much as you want without any worries!

In an alternate world where you could really have it all: there would be stolen kisses without getting slapped. You could shoot from the half-court line and not miss. Enjoy romantic movie without cheesy lines, and eat cheese popcorn without getting yellow fingers. You could enjoy the best of everything without any consequences.

Well perhaps you can't always get what you want. But you can definitely have it all with Coke Light. All pleasure, no guilt. This you can be sure of.

So grab a Coke Light now. It's the first step to having it all.

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330 mL

great taste. no calories.
Have it ALL

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Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

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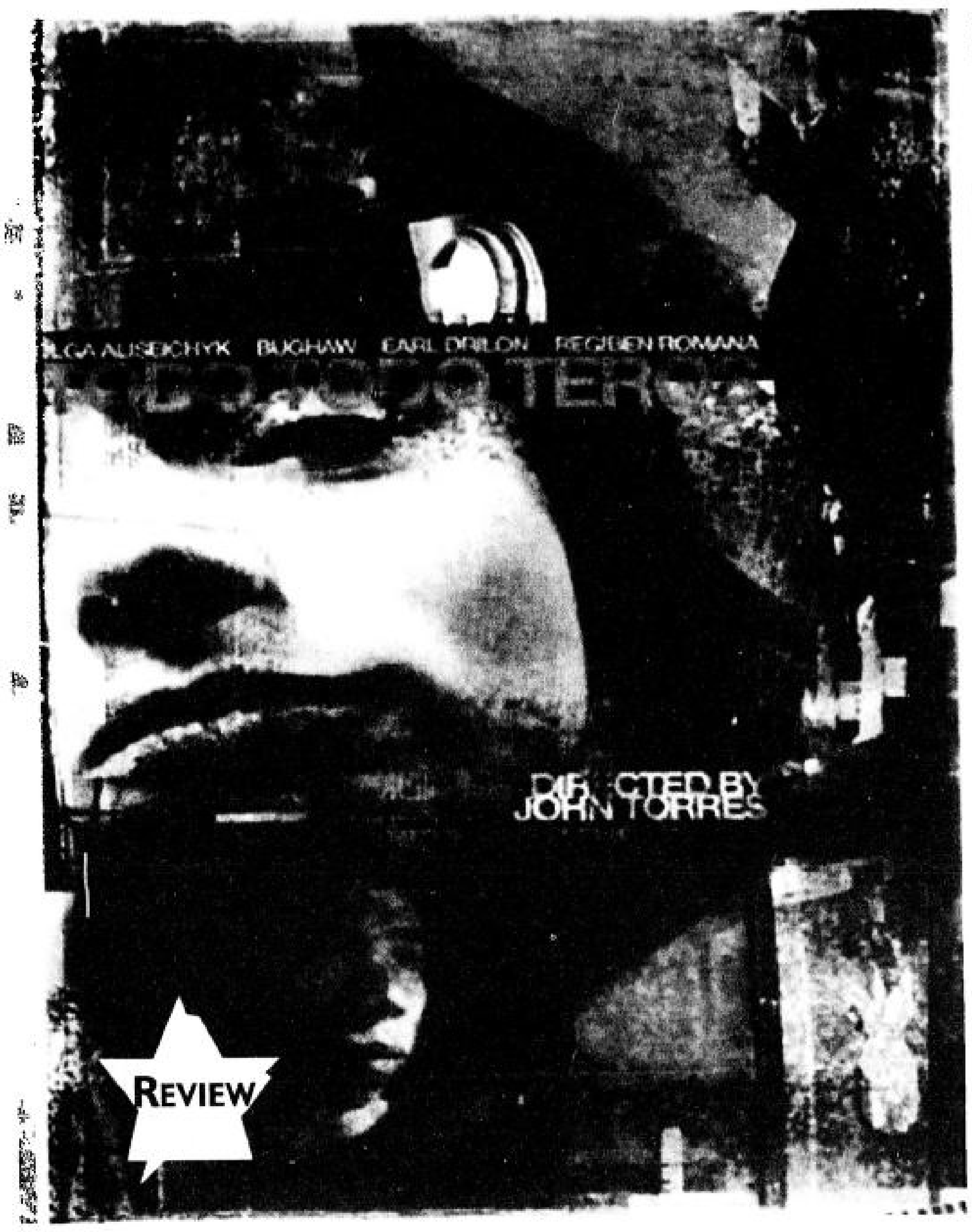
OLGA AUSEICHYK BUGHAW EARL DRILON REGIDEN ROMANA
DIRECTED BY JOHN TORRES
REVIEW

‘Todo Todo Teros’ a rare achievement

By Paul Daza
Contributor

“TODO TODO TEROS” HAS BEEN THE toast of Filipino independent film since it won the critics awards from the Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema (NETPAC), the International Federation of Film Critics (FIPRESCI) and the 19th Singapore International Film Festival earlier this year. “Todo…” has also been invited to more than a dozen festivals worlwide. But until recently, only a handful of Pinoys had seen the provocative piece.

The movie finally made its long-awaited Philippine premiere to an appreciative, visibly impressed crowd at the Ateneo de Manila University Friday night. Cinemalaya organizers had wanted to screen the film at the CCP, but writer/director/ producer/cinematographer John Torres, 30, was in India at the time. He wanted to be present for the Philippine premiere, so it was held at his alma mater.

“Todo Todo Teros” is a challenging, hypnotic film about love and terrorism. It’s been described as a “moving treatise on the way we terrorize the ones we love,” but it’s also about

TODO/ D2

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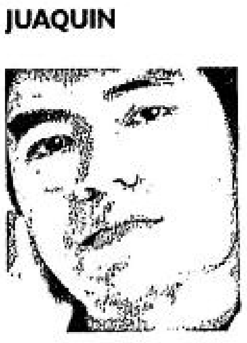

ANGELO

‘GALAXY RECORDing artists Angelo Ortiz and Juaquin—brought home two trophies, seven medals from the 2006 World Championships of Performing Arts (WCOPA).

Ortiz was named-World Champion in the Instrumental Classical category.

Juaquin won two gold medals and two silvers for different c categories, including Broadway and Gospel.

Be Permanently Hair-Free By Next Summer

It's barely three months since your last summer outing, but you're already planning your next getaway. If you're counting the days till your next bikini-flaunting season, now is the time to start being hair-free. Wouldn't it be a great convenience if you didn't have to worry about removing your unwanted hair at the last minute? After a few sessions of LaserLight, you'll permanently get rid of your unwanted hair on virtually any part of your body, from underarms to legs to bikini lines.

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10 MORTUARY

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3 WOLF CREEK
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 LITTLE MAN
3 MIAMI VICE
4 SUKOB

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 MIAMI VICE
3 FIERCE PEOPLE
4 SUKOB
5 CLICK
6 LITTLE MAN

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459

1 LITTLE MAN
2 THE BREAK-UP
3 STORMBREAKER
4 MIAMI VICE
5 CLICK
6 WOLF CREEK

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 LITTLE MAN
2 MIAMI VICE
3 WOLF CREEK
4 TAMARA

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P300 -After 6 pm (Mon- Thurs)
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1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 CLICK
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4 SNAKE ON A PLANE
5 MORTUARY/
MIAMI VICE
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CINEMA 2
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1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 LITTLE MAN
3 CLICK
4 SNAKE ON A PLANE
5 SUKOB
6 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
7 SNAKE ON A PLANE
8 OH MY GHOST
9 MORTUARY
10 MIAMI VICE
11 CLICK
12 LITTLE MAN

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901

1 LITTLE MAN
2 MIAMI VICE
3 SNAKE ON A PLANE
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
5 CLICK
6 MORTUARY
7 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
8 KUBRADOR
9 OH MY GHOST
10 SUKOB
11 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
12 STORMBREAKER

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749

1 KUBRADOR
2 CLICK
3 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
4 MORTUARY
5 OH MY GHOST
6 LITTLE MAN
7 SNAKE ON A PLANE
8 SUKOB
9 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
10 STORMBREAKER
11 MIAMI VICE
12 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416

1 SNAKE ON A PLANE
2 CLICK
3 LITTLE MAN
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
5 SUKOB
6 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
7 MIAMI VICE
8 OH MY GHOST
9 MORTUARY
10 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488

1 SNAKE ON A PLANE
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 CLICK
4 MORTUARY
5 LITTLE MAN
5 SUKOB

SM CITY SOUTHMALL 806-6888

1 SNAKE ON A PLANE
2 LITTLE MAN
3 CLICK
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
5 SUKOB
6 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
7 FIERCE PROPLE
8 MORTUARY
9 OH MY GHOST

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055

1 SNAKE ON A PLANE
2 LITTLE MAN
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 MORTUARY

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240

1 LITTLE MAN
2 CLICK
3 MORTUARY
4 SUKOB
5 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
6 SNAKE ON A PLANE
7 KUBRADOR
8 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
9 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
10 MIAMI VICE
11 OH MY GHOST
12 STORMBREAKER

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04

1 LITTLE MAN
2 SUKOB
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 STORMBREAKER

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917

1 LITTLE MAN
2 MIAMI VICE
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 SUKOB

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975

1 LITTLE MAN
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 SUKOB
4 SNAKE ON A PLANE

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1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 CLICK
3 LITTLE MAN
4 JUST MY LUCK

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17

1 LITTLE MAN
2 OH MY GHOST
3 SUKOB
4 MIAMI VICE

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868

1 KUBRADOR
2 LITTLE MAN
3 SNAKE ON A PLANE
4 OH MY GHOST
5 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
6 SUKOB
7 CLICK
8 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04

1 CLICK
2 LITTLE MAN
3 SUKOB
4 ANT BULLY

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80

1 THE BREAK-UP
2 CLICK
3 JUST MY LUCK
4 LOVEWRECKED

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45

1 LITTLE MAN
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 CLICK
4 KUBRADOR
5 AMERICAN DREAMZ
6 SUKOB

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85

1 SUKOB
2 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
3 AMERICAN DREAMZ
4 LITTLE MAN
5 KUBRADOR
6 OH MY GHOST

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160

1 KUBRADOR
2 MORTUARY
3 OH MY GHOST
4 SUKOB

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5341265-66

1 SUKOB
2 JUST MY LUCK
3 LITTLE MAN
4 STORMBREAKER

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876

1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 SNAKE ON A PLANE
3 MIAMI VICE
4 AMERICAN DREAMZ
5 KUBRADOR
6 FIERCE PEOPLE
7 SUKOB
8 LITTLE MAN

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422

1 STORMBREAKER
2 RESERVED
3 SUKOB
4 AMERICAN DREAMZ
5 CLICK
6 LITTLE MAN
7 RESERVED
8 SUKOB

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998

1 MIAMI VICE
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 LITTLE MAN
4 FIERCE PEOPLE
5 THE BREAK-UP
6 ANT BULLY

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2 CLICK
3 ANT BULLY
4 LITTLE MAN

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'Todo Todo Teros'...

From page D1

the power of video and the movies. In the 102-minute digital film, a camcorder chronicles a Filipino terrorist's growing love for his Russian tour guide (Olga Aliseichyk) in Berlin. The very same footage inflames another character later, prompting her to act in a manner both creative and destructive.

No expense

Just as amazing as the digital movie is the story of how it was made... without a single peso being spent. How? The film is the result of approximately 20 hours of totally real, unstaged footage from the filmmaker's own video diaries. This includes a trip to Berlin, scenes of rock bands playing in Manila bars, movie premieres and a stage play.

With masterful writing and some moving voiceover narration, the documentary images are given new life and new context. An absorbing but harmless conversation about the killing of Magellan by Lapu Lapu takes on a sinister character. A New Year's Eve celebration becomes the setting of a terrorist attack. Only a few scenes were staged to give the film its thought-provoking conclusion.

No fees

Torres says everyone who worked on the film, from the fine actors (Bughaw, Earl Drilon and Regiben Romana, to name a few) to the composer of the haunting and magnificent music score (Khavn dela Cruz), didn't get any compensation (there wasn't even money to feed them).

Thus, Torres outdid the Cinemalaya filmmakers by producing an acclaimed, award-winning film that cost nothing to make. In contrast, Cinemalaya finalists each got a grant of P500,000 just to get started.

"Todo Todo" is a poetic film that dares and challenges its audience to think—and think hard—while they are viewing it, to make the fragile connections between what they're hearing and what they're seeing. In this regard, it is one of the most intellectually interactive local movies in recent memory.

As if that weren't enough, its success in the international scene, coupled with the story of how the movie sprang to life, will undoubtedly inspire a new batch of talented filmmakers to produce works that will also elevate the status of Philippine cinema worldwide. More than anything, the latter will be John Torres' most wonderful achievement.

("Todo Todo Teros" will be shown at the UP Cine Adarna on Sept. 2, at 5:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.)

LEE, center, addresses reporters during a news conference for "Requiem." At left is author Douglas Brinkley and, at right, Shelia Nevins, HBO president for documentary films. REUTERS

Spike marks 20th year with HBO film

'Requiem,' about 2005 hurricane, debuts in US

NEW YORK—SEVERAL WEEKS AFTER HURricane Katrina drowned New Orleans, Spike Lee called the HBO cable television company to propose a monumental documentary on the storm, the ensuing flood and its aftermath, focusing on the suffering of black residents of the city.

The first half of Lee's heartbreaking film, "When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts," screened Monday (yesterday in Manila).

The four-hour documentary marks a career milestone for Lee. Twenty years ago this month, his first feature film, "She's Gotta Have It," hit theaters to instant praise from critics. Since then, he has released an average of one film every year, including this year's "Inside Man," his most profitable with $185 million in global sales.

Strong themes

Nearly all of Lee's films have strong African-American themes and characters. Though filmmakers have always dabbled in racial topics, Lee, who is black, has been unique. Steadfastly chipping away at the subject in ever more complex ways, he has helped make race and ethnicity central to American film.

"He's made a tremendous difference in the history of American cinema," said Jacqueline Stewart, a film professor at Northwestern University in Chicago who teaches a class on Lee's work. "Spike Lee's films get people to talk about what race means and how race continues to function in our society." *AP*

Cesar gives Ninoy his cinematic due, but...

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

FOR A LONG TIME NOW, WE'VE BEEN BUGging our film artists to make a movie on the life of **Ninoy Aquino**.

Finally, **Cesar Montano** has stepped forward to announce that he's directing, producing and starring in the country's first Ninoy film bio—some 23 years after Aquino was treacherously murdered at the MIA tarmac, thus galvanizing the Filipino nation to oust the Marcos dictatorship in the 1986 Edsa Revolution.

Some questions

All praise to Montano for his visionary decision to give Ninoy Aquino his cinematic due. This is important, because Ninoy's heroism should be remembered and dramatized anew, especially for today's post-Edsa youth, who are in dire need of heroes to emulate.

On the other hand, Cesar's Ninoy project has raised some questions that need to be addressed before the movie is shot, so that they don't end up upstaging the project's worthy intent.

First, Montano has proven his directorial acumen with "Panaghoy sa Suba," but is he the right *actor* to play Ninoy? There's no question that he's a good thespian but in a biographical film, shouldn't the actor look, or be made to look, pretty much like the character he's playing?

It has been pointed out that other movie bios shot locally have also been deficient in this regard, so we shouldn't be so "strict" about it. But, that's precisely the point: Ninoy is too important a figure to be dealt with as blithely as the real-life criminals, political bosses and gung-ho cops whose exploits have been "immortalized" on the silver screen.

In foreign film bios, physical believability is an important consideration, as films or TV movies like "Ray," "Capote," "James Dean," "Gia," "The Aviator," "The Doors" and "What's Love Got to Do With It?" attest. Why should Ninoy be depicted with lesser fealty?

Why Kris?

Another bone of contention is **Cory Aquino**'s reported preference for Montano to cast her daughter **Kris** to portray her in the Ninoy film.

Again, Kris may be Cory's daughter, but the facial and physical similarity isn't significant. If memory serves, Ninoy and Cory's wedding photo showed a rather slight and slim Cory—quite different from her now curvesome daughter.

Then, there's the question of personality and temperament. Cory is generally quiet and self-effacing, while Kris is loquacious and self-absorbed. How can the daughter-actress credibly become the mother on screen?

Another problem

The standard answer is, "Through sheer dint of acting talent, of course." Well, that could also be a problem. Kris has improved as an actress, but not all that significantly. Because of the visual disconnect, her "becoming Cory" challenge could be too daunting for her.

Finally, some Ninoy followers wonder what thematic stance Montano's movie will take regarding its illustrious subject. Will it be an out-and-out paean to Ninoy, or will it choose to present a balanced view of his ethos?

This question is raised because Ninoy *was* a hero, but he was also a controversial person, with perceived flaws as well as virtues. It is felt that, to do justice to the man's complexity, the Ninoy film should deal with both his virtues *and* flaws.

This is not to denigrate Ninoy, but to make him more accessible to the similarly "flawed" viewers out there, who would be able to more easily relate to him, and thus feel that they could aspire to be heroes, too.

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LITTLE MAN R13	CLICK PG13	MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND R13

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G1	GLORIETTA 1	1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	2 SNAKES ON THE PLANE	3 MORTUARY	4 LITTLE MAN			
G4	GLORIETTA 4	1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	2 CLICK	3 THX SNAKES ON THE PLANE GUARANTEED SEATS	4 FREEDOMLAND	5 KUBRADOR	6 LITTLE MAN	7 SUKOB
GB1	GREENBELT 1	1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	2 SNAKES ON THE PLANE					
GB3	GREENBELT 3	1 THX LITTLE MAN GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX SNAKES ON THE PLANE GUARANTEED SEATS	3 MIAMI VICE GUARANTEED SEATS	4 CLICK GUARANTEED SEATS	5 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX SNAKES ON THE PLANE	2 LITTLE MAN	3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	4 AMERICAN DREAMZ	5 CLICK		
ACC	AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 SNAKES ON THE PLANE	2 LITTLE MAN	3 AMERICAN DREAMZ	4 FIERCE PEOPLE			
M2	MARKET! MARKET!	1 SNAKES ON THE PLANE	2 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2	3 OH MY GHOST	4 LITTLE MAN	5 SUKOB		

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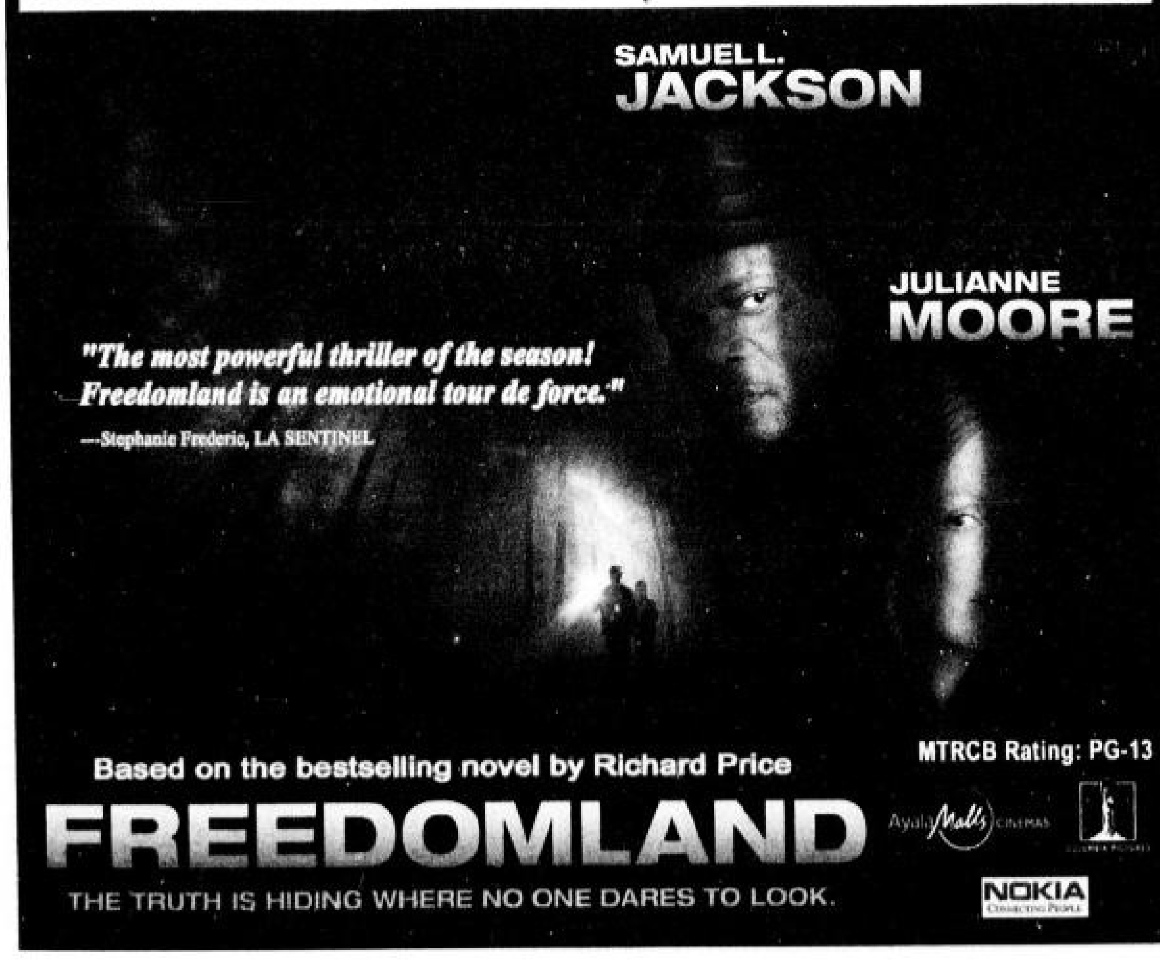
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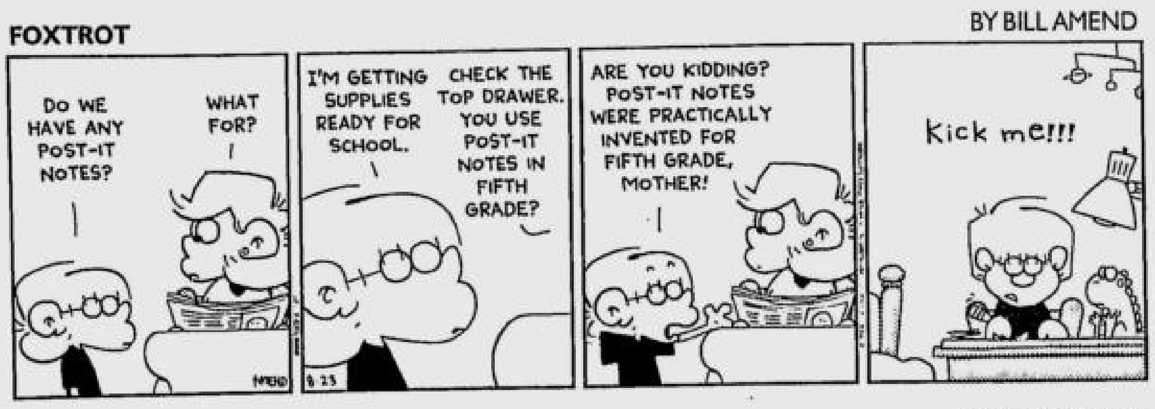
with JINKY VIDAL of FREESTYLE
at Greenbelt 2
August 9 & 23, 2006
7:30 p.m.
105.1
GREENBELT

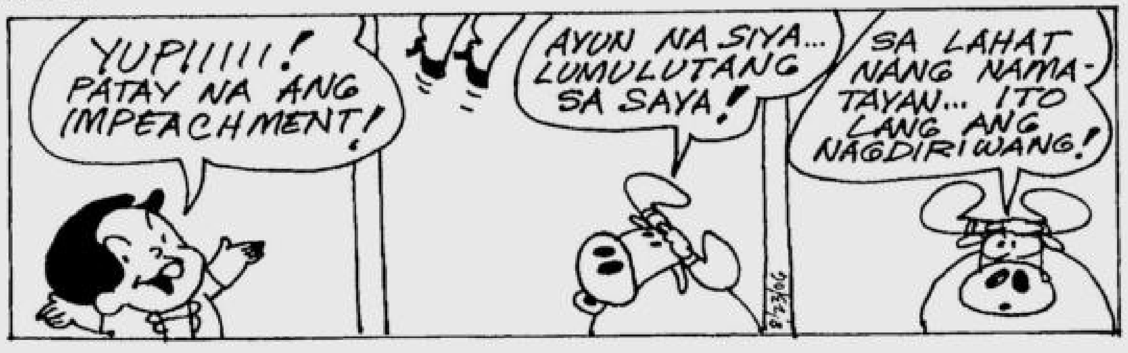
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


DO WE HAVE ANY POST-IT NOTES?
WHAT FOR?
I'M GETTING SUPPLIES READY FOR SCHOOL.
CHECK THE TOP DRAWER. YOU USE POST-IT NOTES IN FIFTH GRADE?
ARE YOU KIDDING? POST-IT NOTES WERE PRACTICALLY INVENTED FOR FIFTH GRADE, MOTHER!
Kick me!!!
8-23

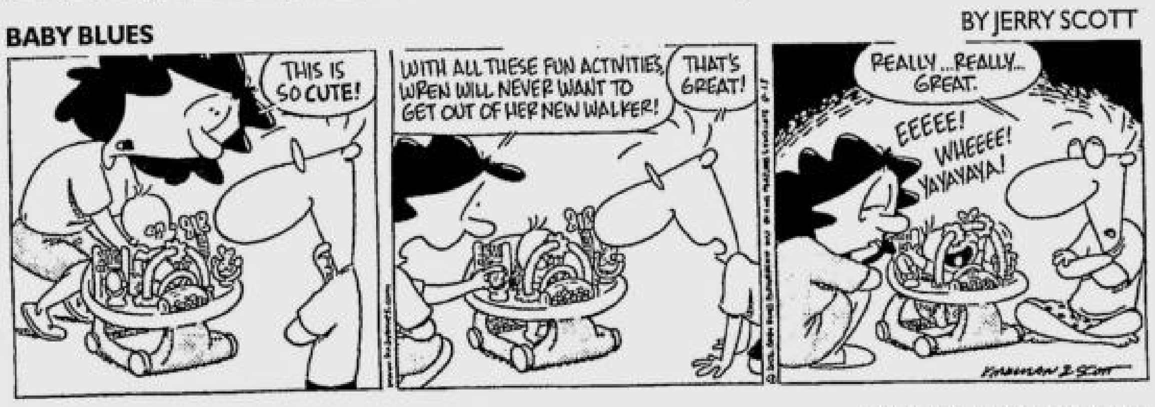
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


YUPI!!!!! PATAY NA ANG IMPEACHMENT!
AYUN NA SIYA... LUMULUTANG SA SAYA!
SA LAHAT NANG NAMATAYAN... ITO LANG ANG NAGDIRIWANG!
8/23/06

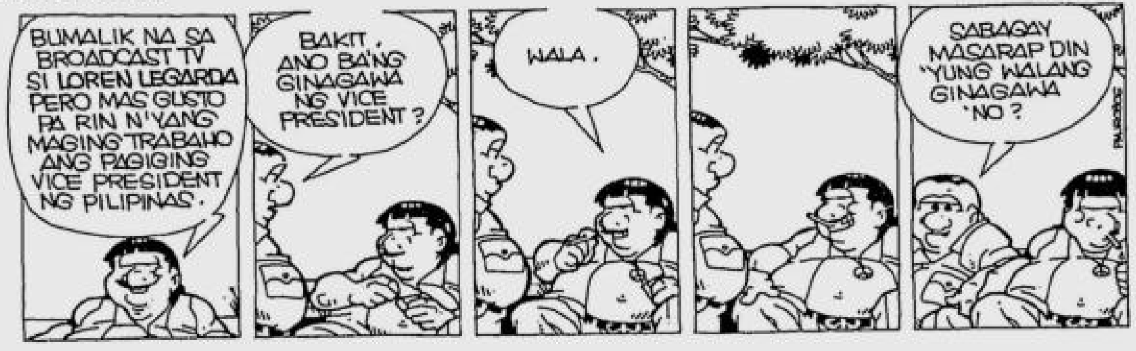
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


THIS IS SO CUTE!
WITH ALL THESE FUN ACTIVITIES WREN WILL NEVER WANT TO GET OUT OF HER NEW WALKER!
THAT'S GREAT!
REALLY... REALLY... GREAT.
EEEEE! WHEEEE! YAYAYAYA!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

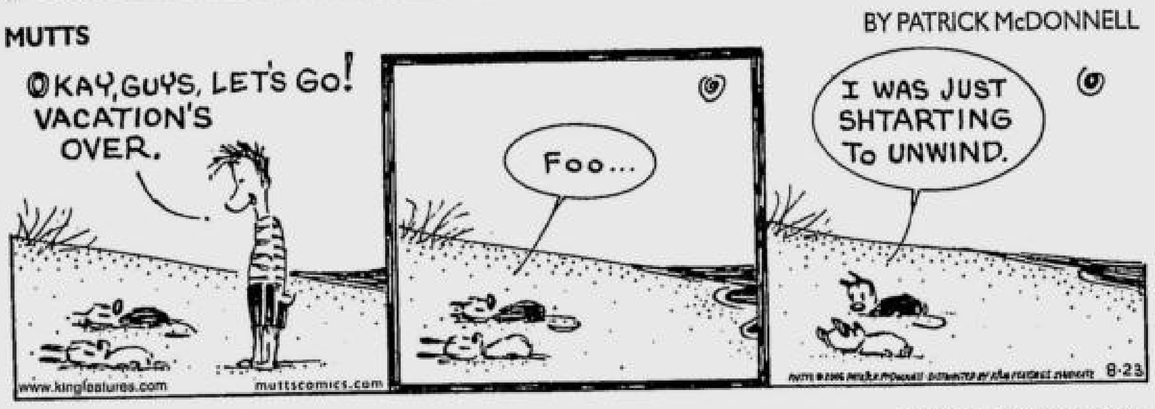
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


BUMALIK NA SA BROADCAST TV SI LOREN LEGARDA PERO MAS GUSTO PA RIN N'YANG MAGING TRABAHO ANG PAGIGING VICE PRESIDENT NG PILIPINAS.
BAKIT, ANO BA'NG GINAGAWA NG VICE PRESIDENT ?
WALA.
SABAGAY MASARAP DIN 'YUNG WALANG GINAGAWA 'NO ?

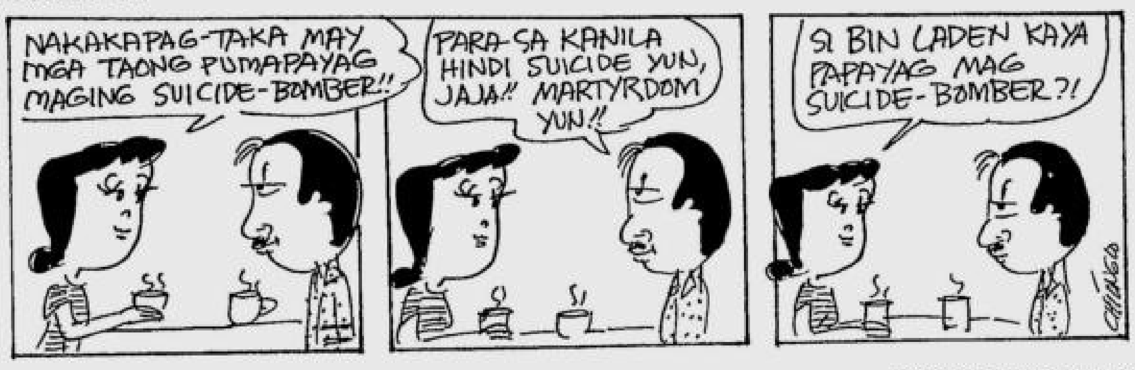
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


OKAY, GUYS, LET'S GO! VACATION'S OVER.
Foo...
I WAS JUST SHTARTING TO UNWIND.
www.kingfeatures.com
muttscomics.com
8-23

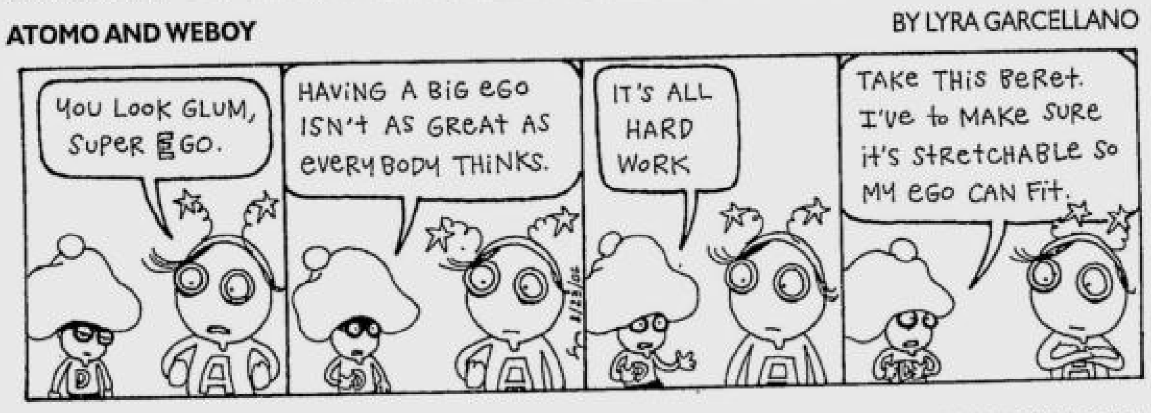
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NAKAKAPAG-TAKA MAY MGA TAONG PUMAPAYAG MAGING SUICIDE-BOMBER!!
PARA SA KANILA HINDI SUICIDE YUN, JAJA!! MARTYRDOM YUN!!
SI BIN LADEN KAYA PAPAYAG MAG SUICIDE-BOMBER?!
CHIONGLO

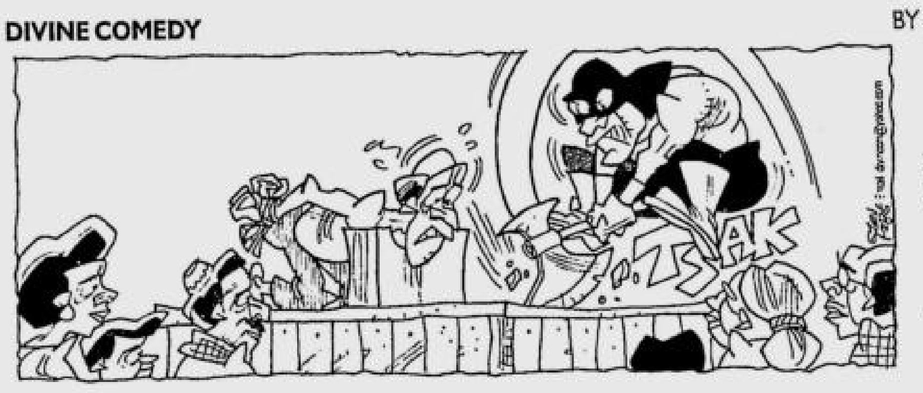
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


YOU LOOK GLUM, SUPER EGO.
HAVING A BIG EGO ISN'T AS GREAT AS EVERYBODY THINKS.
IT'S ALL HARD WORK
TAKE THIS BERET. I'VE TO MAKE SURE IT'S STRETCHABLE SO MY EGO CAN FIT.

DIVINE COMEDY

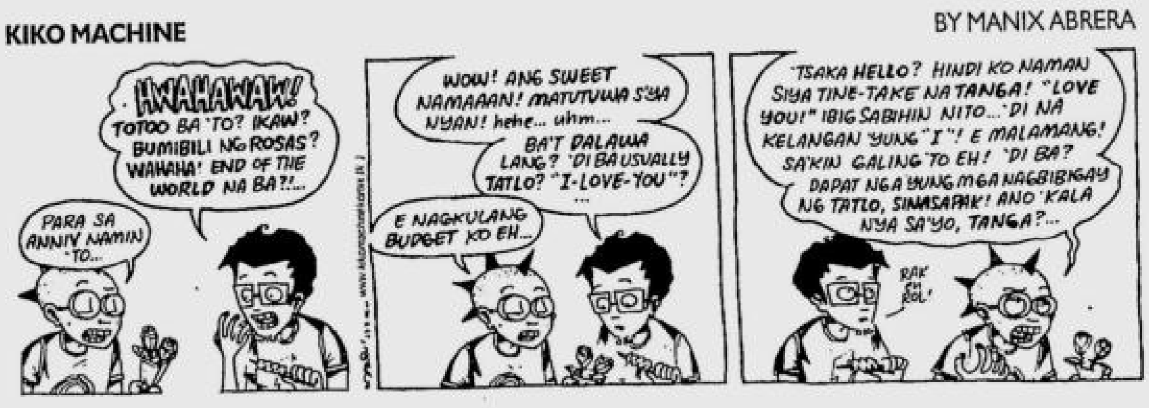
BY STEVEN PABALINAS



TUMAGAL ANG EXECUTION DAHIL ANG KINUHA NILANG BERDUGO AY DULING

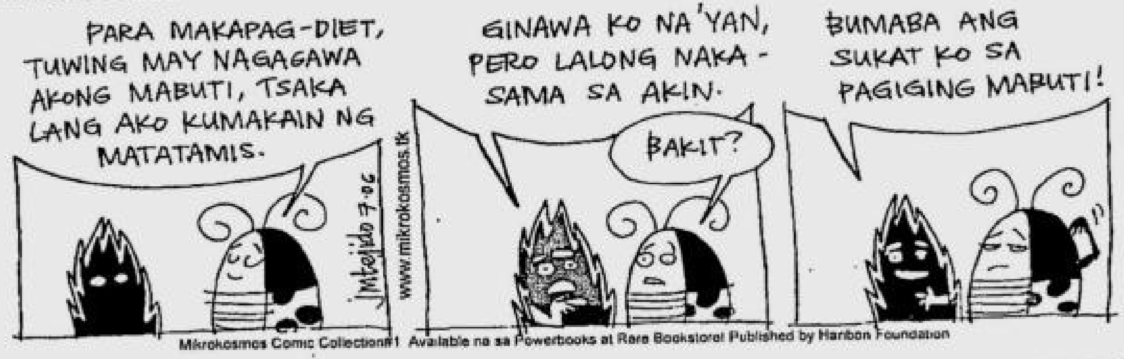
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


PARA SA ANNIV NAMIN 'TO...
HWAHAHAW! TOTOO BA 'TO? IKAW? BUMIBILI NG ROSAS? WAHAHA! END OF THE WORLD NA BA?!...
WOW! ANG SWEET NAMAAAN! MATUTUWA S'YA NYAN! hehe... uhm...
BA'T DALAWA LANG? 'DI BA USUALLY TATLO? "I-LOVE-YOU"? ...
E NAGKULANG BUDGET KO EH...
'TSAKA HELLO? HINDI KO NAMAN SIYA TINE-TAKE NA TANGA! "LOVE YOU!" IBIG SABIHIN NITO...'DI NA KELANGAN 'YUNG "I"! E MALAMANG! SA'KIN GALING 'TO EH! 'DI BA? DAPAT NGA 'YUNG MGA NAGBIBIGAY NG TATLO, SINASAPAK! ANO 'KALA NYA SA'YO, TANGA?...
RAK EN ROL'

MIKROKOSMOS

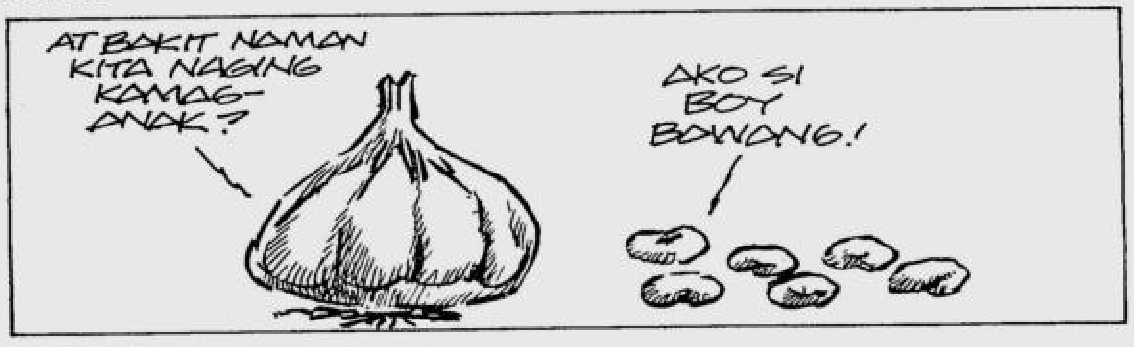
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


PARA MAKAPAG-DIET, TUWING MAY NAGAGAWA AKONG MABUTI, TSAKA LANG AKO KUMAKAIN NG MATATAMIS.
GINAWA KO NA 'YAN, PERO LALONG NAKA-SAMA SA AKIN.
BAKIT?
BUMABA ANG SUKAT KO SA PAGIGING MABUTI!
JMTejido 7-06
www.mikrokosmos.tk

Mikrokosmos Comic Collection#1 Available na sa Powerbooks at Rare Bookstore! Published by Haribon Foundation

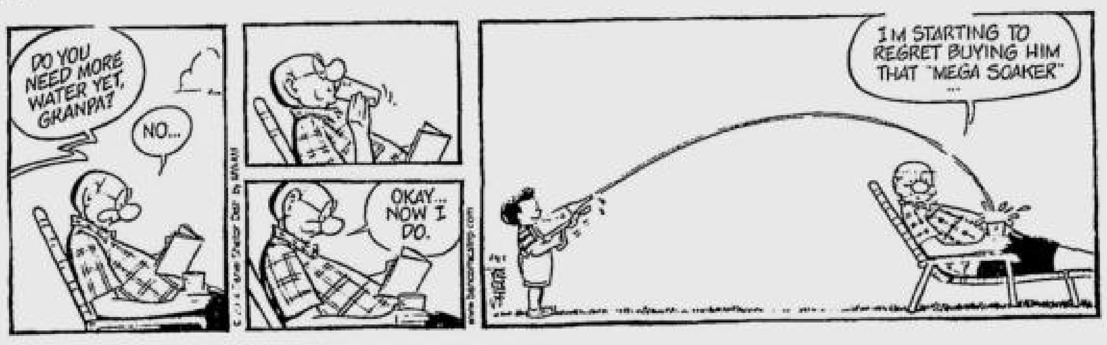
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


AT BAKIT NAMAN KITA NAGING KAMAG-ANAK?
AKO SI BOY BAWANG!

BEN

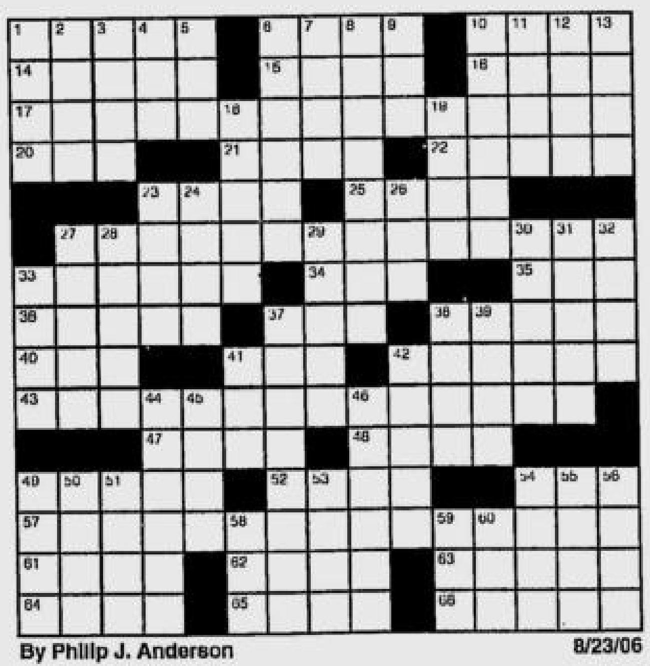
BY DANIEL SHELTON


DO YOU NEED MORE WATER YET, GRANPA?
NO...
OKAY... NOW I DO.
I'M STARTING TO REGRET BUYING HIM THAT "MEGA SOAKER" ...

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Broadband provider
6 Medal recipient
10 Old World merganser
14 Pres. James __ Garfield
15 Frosts
16 Architect Saarinen
17 Tony winner and her musical
20 Supermodel Carol
21 Melville novel
22 Preminger and Kruger
23 Greek peak
25 Luigi's Chianti
27 Tony winner and her musical
33 Type of sail
34 Skill
35 T-shirt size
36 Banned big bang
37 USNA grad.
38 Circus barkers
40 O.T. book
41 Black cuckoo
42 Three lines of verse
43 Tony winner and his musical
47 Kett of old comics
48 Prohibits
49 Have a feeling
52 Equipment
54 Biblical craft
57 Tony winner and his musical
61 Revival shout
62 Poker payment
63 Popeye's nemesis
64 Floor pads
65 Holy moly!
66 Trapshooting

DOWN
1 Water-to-wine town
2 Son of Adam
3 Very dry, in champagne
4 Statute
5 Static letters
6 Hired killer
7 Canyon's reply
8 Gets back
9 City near Frunze
10 Military division
11 Lion's fare
12 Cogito __ sum
13 Courts
18 Pine-sap product
19 Actress Skye
23 Vein yields
24 Leave text in!
26 Gomez's cousin
27 Taiwan Strait island
28 Mr. T's outfit
29 Fit of terror
30 Locality
31 Shoelace tip
32 Aerie
33 Secular
37 Charming
38 Penn or Young
39 Goofs
41 Picnic pest
42 Lifts at Aspen
44 Subatomic particles
45 Way of old Rome
46 Humiliated
49 Computer clutter
50 Ms. Bombeck
51 Putin's denial
53 Como __ Usted?
54 Chills and fever
55 Memory method
56 Granny, e.g.
58 Actress West
59 6-pack muscles
60 Sort


1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13
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43 44 45 46
47 48
49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56
57 58 59 60
61 62 63
64 65 66

By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

8/23/06

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

S	E	T	U	P	■	N	A	C	R	E	■	T	E	N
O	R	O	N	O	■	T	W	E	E	T	■	I	D	A
W	I	L	L	S	S	H	O	R	T	S	■	M	D	I
S	E	D	A	T	E	■	L	E	I	■	A	S	I	A
■	■	■	C	E	R	T	■	S	E	C	U	R	E	D
I	N	T	E	R	V	A	L	■	D	O	D	O	■	■
S	A	O	■	S	A	X	O	N	■	T	I	B	E	T
I	S	N	T	■	L	I	V	E	D	■	T	I	R	E
S	H	Y	E	R	■	S	E	W	U	P	■	N	N	E
■	■	S	L	I	M	■	S	T	R	E	S	S	E	S
T	A	B	L	O	I	D	■	S	E	A	T	■	■	■
O	N	L	Y	■	R	O	E	■	S	C	R	A	P	S
P	G	A	■	L	A	R	R	Y	S	H	O	M	E	S
E	R	R	■	A	G	I	L	E	■	E	V	E	N	T
R	Y	E	■	B	E	S	E	T	■	S	E	N	D	S

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8/23/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: Many of you can learn to do something so well you have extreme technical proficiency at it. (You're an expert!) You're disciplined and poised. Fortunately, you also have excellent money savvy. You're conscientious and hardworking. The word "casual" isn't in your vocabulary. You will face a major choice this year. Choose wisely.
Birthdate of: Barbara Eden, actress; Gene Kelly, actor/dancer; Mark Russell, political satirist.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Think of ways to improve your efficiency on a day-to-day basis. Buy boxes, baskets, file folders and the like to get better organized. (You'll be glad you did later.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Make plans to entertain at home. You love your home, and you love your family. This New Moon urges you to scrutinize your style of entertaining. Why not offer the best?

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): What can you do to feel closer and more loving to your family? Each New Moon offers us a chance to make improvements in a certain area of our life. For you, it's home and family.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): How can you improve your day-to-day communication with others? Learn to be a good listener. Others think people who listen are fascinating! (Go figure.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You need to get on top of your financial scene. Don't let it get away from you. Figure out what you own and what you owe. Get this straight in your head.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is the only New Moon in your sign all year. That's why this is the perfect time to think about how you can improve the first impression you create on your audience.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Although you like to be with others, it's also important to get things done that require working alone. Think how important this is for you to achieve.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): What can you do to improve your friendships with others? Think of ways to be more friendly.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Whether we're aware of it or not, we all create a strong impression on bosses, the police and authority figures. What kind of impression do you create?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Increased training or further education might promote your career or enrich your life in some way. Think about that at this time. What would you like to learn?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Be very clear in your own mind exactly where your responsibilities for others begin and stop. Make sure you're on the same page with everyone else.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Because Mars is opposite your sign now, it's very easy to be annoyed with partners and close friends. But hey—it's going to move on very soon. Be patient.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

	6							
			5		9	4		8
	1	4	3			2		
	3					8	6	
				7				
	4	7					3	
		3			5	9	4	
9		6	4		1			
							5	

Difficulty Level ★★★

8/23

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

7	9	8	2	3	5	1	4	6
6	3	4	7	9	1	5	2	8
2	1	5	8	4	6	3	7	9
4	5	6	1	2	8	9	3	7
9	2	1	5	7	3	6	8	4
3	8	7	9	6	4	2	5	1
8	6	2	4	5	9	7	1	3
1	7	9	3	8	2	4	6	5
5	4	3	6	1	7	8	9	2

Difficulty Level ★★

DID YOU KNOW...

'The Triangle'

Star Movies brings to the small screen a science fiction thriller miniseries about the mysteries of the Bermuda Triangle— from Filipino-American producer and screenwriter Dean Devlin and producer and director Bryan Singer. "The Triangle," a 270-minute miniseries, airs Sept. 2, 9 and 16 at 9 p.m.

LAUGH-OUT-LOUD FUN BEGINS TODAY

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 | STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS AND UP

FROM THE GUYS WHO BROUGHT YOU WHITE CHICKS

MARLON WAYANS SHAWN WAYANS

LITTLE MAN

To hide from the law, this little criminal has to act like a big baby.

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ARANETA CENTER

Gateway Alimall FarmersPlaza

THE ONLY CINEPLEX IN THE COUNTRY Gateway CINEPLEX*10 FULL STADIUM SEATING

SNAKES ON A PLANE

LITTLE MAN 12:10 / 2:35 / 5:00 / 7:25 / 9:50

MY SUPER X-GIRLFRIEND 12:35 / 2:55 / 5:15 / 7:35 / 9:55

MORTUARY 12:30 / 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30

KUBRADOR 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00

HADA 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00

Gateway PLATINUM CINEMA

DOLBY DIGITAL-EX

CLICK 12:25 / 2:45 / 5:05 / 7:25 / 9:45

SUKOB 2:20 / 4:40 / 7:00 / 9:20

LITTLE MAN 2:00 / 4:25 / 6:50 / 9:15

ALIMALL 5

SNAKES ON A PLANE

SUKOB 1:10 / 3:30 / 5:50 / 8:10

MY SUPER X-GIRLFRIEND 12:10 R4 / 1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30

OH MY GHOST 11:55 / 2:05 / 4:15 / 6:25 / 8:35

LITTLE MAN 1:05 / 3:30 / 5:55 / 8:20

DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph

ARANETA COLISEUM

WESTLIFE: FACE TO FACE IN MANILA September 4, Monday - 8:00 pm

BITUING WALANG NINGNING - GRAND SHOWDOWN September 19, Tuesday - 8:00 pm

---

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Ayala Malls

ANDY GARCIA DUSTIN HOFFMAN TOMAS MILIAN BILL MURRAY INES SASTRE

An epic adventure of historic intrigue ... & timeless romance.

In a time of chaos... can love prevail...

A film by Academy Award-nominee Andy Garcia

THE LOST CITY

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)

VIVA Ayala Malls CINEMAS glorietta GREENBELT

SHANG CINEPLEX

① LITTLE MAN MTRCB R-13 12.40, 3.00, 5.20, 7:40, 10:00

② SNAKES ON A PLANE (Subject for MTRCB Rating)

③ CLICK MTRCB PG-13 12:00, 2.30, 5.00, 7.30, 10:00

④ MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND MTRCB R-13 12.40, 3 00, 5 20, 7 40, 10 00

PREMIERE THEATRE ANT BULLY / MTRCB GP AMERICAN DREAMZ MTRCB PG-13

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

Catch the Cineplex Special

MONDAY AND TUESDAY SPECIALS
(EXCEPT FOR MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND)

On Mondays and Tuesdays starting August 14 enjoy special prices of P99 for Cinemas 1-4 , P120 for the Premiere Theatre (exclusive of food and drinks) Not applicable to selected movies, on holidays, and in conjunction with other Shang Cineplex discounts and promos. Specials last until Nov 14, 2006 See posters and flyers for details Per DTI NCR Permit No. A3 0608 Series of 2006

Call 633-7851, loc. 171 or 633-2227 for more details.

Shangri-La Plaza

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GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS

a landmark reinvented!

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 10:40 , 12:35 , 3:00 5:25 , 7:50 , 10:20 R-13

CINEMA 2 MORTUARY 11:20 , 1:35 , 3:50 6:05 , 8:20 , 10:35 R-13

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

PROMENADE GREENHILLS

...a dinertainment for all!

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3 AMERICAN DREAMZ 10:30 , 12:45 , 3:15 5:45 , 8:15 , 10:35 PG-13

CINEMA 4 CLICK 11:00 , 1:15 , 3:30 5:45 , 8:00 , 10:20 PG-13

CINEMA 5 SUPER EX-GIRLFFRIEND 10:30 , 12:50 , 3:10 5:30 , 7:50 , 10:10 R-13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM	AUG. 17,18,24,25 & 31	GARY V	8:00PM
	AUG. 26 , 2006	NONOY ZUNIGA	8:00PM
TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS	EVERY MONDAY	DANCE NIGHT	7:00PM
	EVERY WEDNESDAY	CERRUDO . CLASSICO	8:00PM
	AUG. 24-26 , 2006	DAVID POMERANZ	9:00PM
		FOR INQUIRIES PLS CALL 722-4532 LOC 116	

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE

Uma Thurman Luke Wilson

My Super Ex-Girlfriend

NOW SHOWING

The Bloomfields

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Relive the golden era
of peace and love.
Of the Beatles and the
Beach Boys.
Join the Bloomfields
in a musical revival
of the '60s and '70s.

AUG. 23, 2006
8:00 PM
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Eastwood City

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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

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E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City

For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 LITTLE MAN 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00 R-13

2 SNAKE ON THE PLANE

3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00 R-13

4 CLICK 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00 PG-13

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX

6th floor Shangri-la Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City Telephone 633 2227 • 6337851 loc 171

1 (DOLBY) MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 (DOLBY) THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
3 (DOLBY) BUTTERFLY EFFECT-2 / AMERICAN DREAMZ
4 (DOLBY) CLICK

PREMIERE
(DOLBY) ANT BULLY

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati

Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1 CLICK
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 SUKOB
4 OH MY GHOST

starmall EDSA SHAW

(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266160

3 SUKOB
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) OH MY GHOST
5 BUTTERFLY EFFECT-2

metropolis star cinema

www.clickthecity.com.ph

(ALABANG) tel. 8604285, 6433994

1 OH MY GHOST
2 SUKOB
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 MORTUARY

THEATRES

[illegible]

1 JUST MY LUCK
2 OH MY GHOST
3 SUKOB

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC

Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271

1 OH MY GHOST
2 CLICK
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA

(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 SUKOB
2 MIAMI VICE
3 CLICK
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
5 BUTTERFLY EFFECT-2
6 AMERICAN DREAMZ
7 MORTUARY
8 STORMBREAKER/PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN-2
9 KUBRADOR
10 OH MY GHOST

Blue Wave MARIKINA

Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341507

1 (DOLBY) SUKOB
2 (DOLBY) OH MY GHOST
3 (DOLBY) MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228

1 (DOLBY) SUKOB
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 OH MY GHOST
4 AMERICAN DREAMZ
5 KUBRADOR

THE MARKETPLACE

Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 THE BREAK UP
2 STORMBREAKER
3 UNITED 93
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA

(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 OH MY GHOST
2 MORTUARY
3 SUKOB

Center Mall Cinema

Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 CLICK

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5003 to 03

1 SUKOB
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 THE BREAK UP
4 OH MY GHOST

Centre Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 SUKOB
2 ANT BULLY

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY) AMERICAN DREAMZ
2 (DOLBY) CLICK
3 (DOLBY) MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 (DOLBY) BUTTERFLY EFFECT-2

CINEMA 2000

Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 SUKOB
2 OH MY GHOST
3 ANT BULLY
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146

1 SUKOB
2 ANT BULLY
3 OH MY GHOST
4 TAKE THE LEAD

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix

(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 ANT BULLY
2 OH MY GHOST
3 SUKOB

Cinema 2000 Metrotown

(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 OH MY GHOST
2 ANT BULLY
3 SUKOB
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN - 2

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1 JUST M Y LUCK / ANT BULLY
2 SUKOB
3 OH MY GHOST

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

1 SUKOB
2 OH MY GHOST

Lianas Cinema

(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1 TAMARA
2 WILD ORCHIDS

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 WOLF CREEK
2 MULATA
3 LIGAYA PANTASYA NG BAYAN
4 WILD ORCHIDS

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 ANT BULLY
2 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
3 TAMARA
4 SUKOB
5 OH MY GHOST

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 TAMARA
2 ANT BULLY
3 OH MY GHOST
4 SUKOB

Berma Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 OH MY GHOST
2 ZEX & ZEN UNTOLD STORY

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

OPENING TODAY

Snakes on a Plane

Stars Samuel L. Jackson, Julianna Margulies, Byron Lawson, Sean Jones
Directed by David R. Ellis

A nasty crime lord (Lawson) unleashes "adders, pythons, rattlers, cobras and other deadly serpents" in a plane en route from Honolulu to Los Angeles, in order to kill one of the passengers (Jones), a witness to a murder. Also on board is an FBI agent (Jackson), whose job expands from protecting the eyewitness to the entire passenger list. Peter Howell of the Toronto Star opines: "[It's] one cheesy movie, bereft of logic ... but it's cheese of the highest quality, and smart enough to know just how dumb it really is ... [It] delivers exactly what it promised and then some." Dan Lybarger of EFilmCritic.com comments: "[It] has moments of inspired tackiness, but ... the tone can't match the outlandishness of the plot ... [and] it loses its venom quickly." Matt Pais of Metromix.com hisses: "Catch it if you enjoy a movie that purposely makes no sense ... [and] allows you to simultaneously confront your fears of flying and snakes."

Little Man

Stars Marlon Wayans, Shawn Wayans, Molly Shannon, Kerry Washington
Directed by Keenen Ivory Wayans

A pint-sized thug (a computer-digitized Marlon Wayans) steals a diamond which inadvertently winds up with a clueless couple (Shawn Wayans and Kerry Washington). The thief then disguises himself as a foundling to retrieve the stolen jewel from the childless pair who's desperate to start a family. Justin Chang of Variety says that "this vulgar, violent comedy ... is not without its share of inspired crudities ... the 'Scary Movie' franchise not withstanding, this may be the Wayans' scariest movie yet, with credit going entirely to its mesmerizingly freaky title character." Scott Bowles of USA Today points out: "[It] has flashes of humor and sincerity ... Give the Wayans some credit. For a movie that could have fallen flat on its infantile face, it scores some points for thinking big." Kevin Crust of the Los Angeles Times differs: "The Wayans make high-concept, lowbrow comedies that pretty much defy review. They wield their humor like a blunt instrument, pummeling the audience with repetition in the hope that something sticks. In this case, the jokes rarely do."

OPENS TODAY!
THE #1 MOVIE IN AMERICA!
500 POISONOUS SNAKES
30,000 FEET IN THE AIR
DO NOT PANIC
SNAKES ON A PLANE
NEW LINE CINEMA

The world according to Pablo

Pablo S. Gomez has lived a life so colorful, it rivals his best-loved *komiks* novels

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Romy Homillada

HE HAS taken computer lessons but still prefers his trusty typewriter.

"LIKE MOST WRITERS, I CANnot single out one favorite from among the more than 300 *komiks* novels I've written," Pablo S. Gomez says. "But two stand out: 'Busabos' and 'ROTC,' because they're close to my life story."

Gomez acknowledges that a writer often mines his own life for plots.

"When I'm sad and broken-hearted, my stories turn out better," he confesses.

Gomez, now in his diamond year, has lived a life so colorful, convoluted and circuitous, it rivals his best-loved novels.

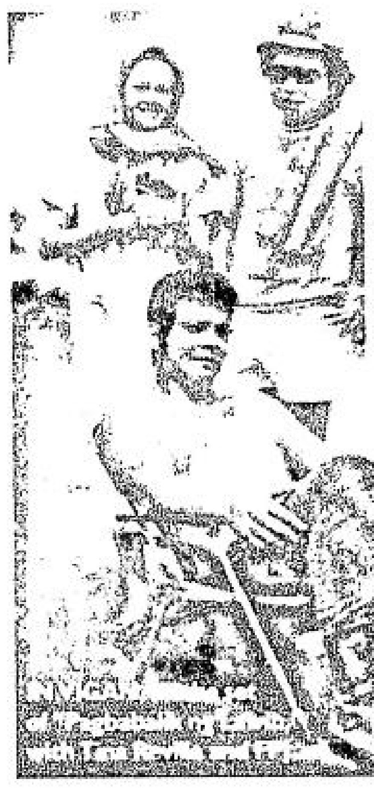
Born and raised in Balic-Balic, Sampaloc, he was the seventh of 14 children of cigar-makers.

"My mother Paz Salonga worked at the Helena Cigar Factory on Arlegui; my father Olimpio was with La Dicha in Divisoria," he recalls. "My mom earned P50 a month; my father, less than P100."

When the Second World War broke out in 1941, the Gomezes—including 10-year-old Pablo—toiled doubly hard.

"I worked for the Japanese at the Pandacan Oil Factory, pushing carts carrying drums of gasoline, alongside American prisoners."

His first salary? "*Kalahating gatang ng bigas* (half a cup of uncooked rice). We were also allowed to harvest *kangkong* in the compound and bring home used clothes."



When the Americans arrived in 1945, he started doing laundry for them at the 80th General Hospital (Quezon Institute). "I was the GIs' favorite because I spoke English well."

The 14-year-old Pablo began his show biz career as a jingle writer on the kzRH program, "Binay Bulilit."

"I tried everything. I worked as announcer. I wrote and sang on radio shows."

The wiz kid also started writing for Tagalog Klasiks and was soon hired as proofreader in the Roces-owned Ace Publication.

"The Big Four of komiks were Mars Ravelo, Clodualdo del Mundo, Francisco V. Coching and Tony Velasquez. I was the youngest to break into the circle."

It was an exclusive clique: Ravelo wrote "Darna" and "Roberta"; Del Mundo, "Prinsipe Amante"; Coching, "Hagibis" and "Pedro Penduko"; and Velasquez, "Kenkoy."

He went through the eye of the needle before he could join the big league.

"I experienced discrimination because I was new, young and gay," he remarks. "Editors would dump my copy before I could step out of their offices."

Survey says

Undeterred, Pablo gained a foothold in the biz because his novels proved popular among the readers. "I was always on top of the surveys."

For his first short story, "Lagrimas," he was paid P500, "but that went to the funeral services for my brother Vicente."

In 1950, "Lagrimas" was made into a movie by Tor Villano of Maharlika Productions with Rita Rio and pianist Edgardo Llanes as lead stars. "Edgardo would become mayor of Makati. His real name was Nemesio Yabut."

The movies and Pablo were a perfect fit. The biggest stars top-billed his novel's movie versions: Carmen Rosales ("MN" and "ROTC"), Lolita Rodriguez ("Busabos" and "Gilda"), Gloria Romero ("Kurdapya") and Susan Roces ("Susanang Daldal").

They all became his friends, most notably Carmen, Susan and Corazon Rivas, Fernando Poe Jr.'s partner in "Lo' Waist Gang."

Dr. Jose Perez, Sampaguita producer, noticed that Carmen was Pablo's pet. "He ordered me to write for his other stars."

As coup de grace, Susan, then a teener, sought out the writer. "She asked, 'Don't you want to be my friend?' I didn't like her at first. I thought her voice was squeaky and her legs, big! But now our friendship is tried and tested."

He also grew close to Susan's late husband, FPJ, his "boss" for 38 years. "Da King" often consulted the wordsmith.

"I gave him the title 'Bato sa Buhangin' for his movie with Vilma Santos. When I thought of the title 'Kahit Konting Pagtingin' for his first movie with Sharon Cuneta, he was so happy that he kept punching me," he relates.

When he started making movies for Sampaguita, Pablo's talent fee was pegged at P4,000 (for "Apat na Taga"). At his peak, however, his asking price was P7,000 per novel.

After a labor strike at Ace in 1960, he put up his own company PSG Publishing House in 1962.

"Our best-selling titles were United, Universal, Continental, Kidlat and Planet," he relates.

Sad, ironic

Although the *komiks* industry has long since folded, he continues to write a serial for Liwayway magazine, "Ada: Nuno sa Punso."

"It's sad that *komiks* is dead," he says. "I find it ironic that it's enjoying a revival on television, the same medium that killed it. *Komiks* will not completely disappear because it has become part of our culture."

In the works is a new Liwayway novel, "Bago Lumubog ang Araw," about three old gays coping with loneliness.

As president of the Screenwriters' Guild of the Philippines, Pablo is active in the Film Academy of the Philippines.

With his trusty typewriter, he is currently drafting two movie scripts: "Ang Bukas ay Walang Hanggan" and "Basura." The former is a Christian story; the latter, a doomed romance between a male and female prostitute.

Recently, he ventured into television for the first time with the ABS-CBN soap operas, "Kampanerang Kuba" and "Mga Anghel na Walang Langit."

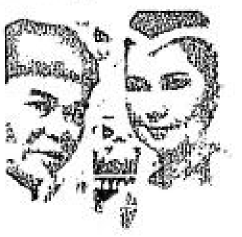
Around 30 of his novels—"Inday Bote," "Machete," "Kamay ni Hilda," "Inday, Inday sa Balitaw," "Bahay ng Lagim" among them—have been picked up by the Kapamilya network for the Saturday show "Komiks."

Indefatigable Pablo also gets invited to speak in school conferences. He says interacting with young writers and students invigorates him.

"I am only too glad to share what I know. Young people should listen to old writers like me because we know about the rules of life."

YESTERDAY

HE HAS authored 300 komiks novels—and counting.



WITH longtime pal Susan Roces

WITH TV host Ike Lozada

"LO' WAIST Gang" star Corazon Rivas is a good friend.

ON THE SET of "Triponia," with Rudy Meyer, Celia Rodriguez and Ricky Belmonte

PARTYING with Sampaguita stars (from left) Linda Veloso, Shirley Moreno, Gloria Romero and Pepito Rodriguez